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Saipan Tribune

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Man allegedly trespassed at PIC quarantine facility. PAGE 2
Online CNMI cannabis hub to be launched soon. PAGE 3

$1

IN BREACH OF CONTRACT CASE SUIT OF PACIFIC RIM AGAINST IPI

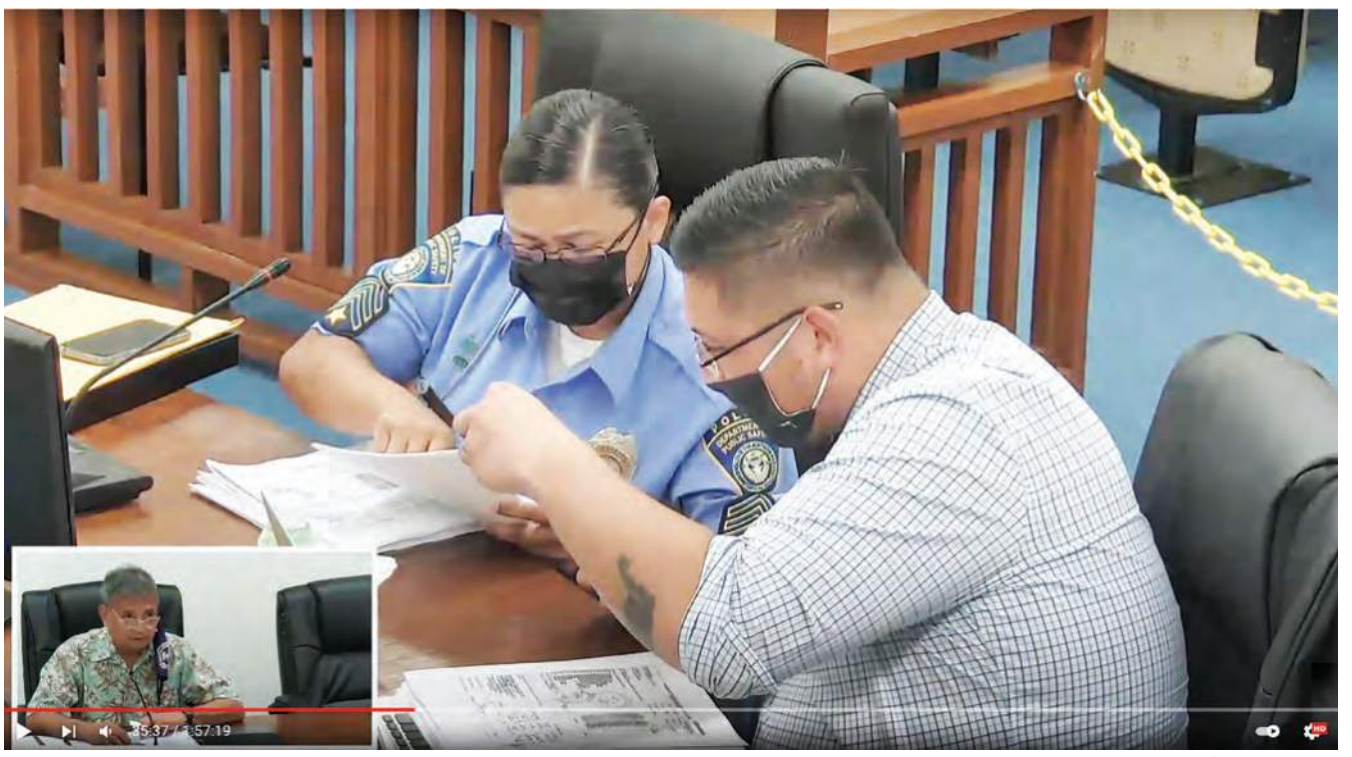
'IPI should not delay payment'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Rim Land Development LLC is asking the federal court for an expedited hearing on its previous request for the release over $5 million that an investor of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC had placed with the court, saying that Pacific Rim is entitled to that money.

In a motion filed yesterday to shorten time to hear the motion for release of funds from the investment portfolio, Pacific Rim counsel Colin Thompson requested the

See IPI on Page 4



SAGA CONTINUES
In this screengrab, police sergeant Flora Aguon, who was formerly assigned as protective security detail for first lady Diann T. Torres, goes over some papers with her lawyer, Anthony Aguon, as she testifies yesterday before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

Story on Page 4

9 new positives; NMI total now at 408

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced Wednesday night that nine more individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19 through surveillance testing on Nov. 16, bringing the CNMI's total to 408. Guam reported two more COVID-19-related deaths.

See NMI on Page 4

China coast guard uses water cannon against PH boats

JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— Chinese coast guard ships blocked and used water cannons on two Philippine supply boats heading to a disputed shoal occupied by Filipino marines in the South China Sea, provok-

See CHINA on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:41pm, Nov. 18, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 84.5%

Days since last community transmission: 2

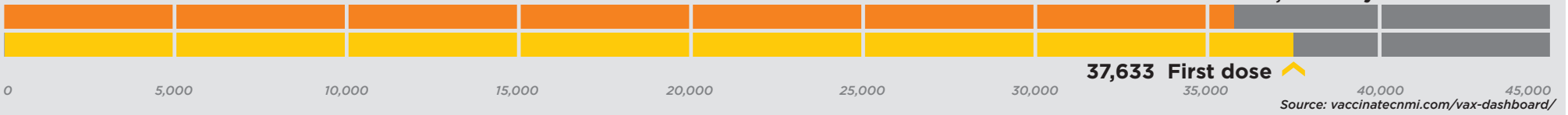
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	32,702
Fully Vaccinated:	30,120
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,931
Fully Vaccinated:	4,753
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	946

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	19,015	25	19,040
Recovered	16,940	0	16,940
Active	1,813	25	1,838
Deaths	260	2	262

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	399	9	408
Traced via Travel Screening	264	0	264
Traced via Community Screening	135	9	144
Deaths	3	0	3

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

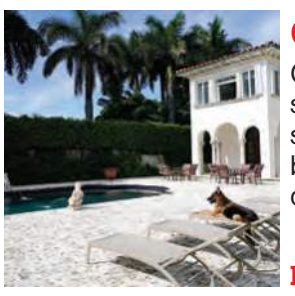


Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

NATION
The White House says about 10% of eligible kids aged have received a dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

PAGE 16



OFF THE WALL
Gunther the dog is selling his Miami mansion that his handlers bought from Madonna.

PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
Rapper Young Dolph, widely admired in the hip-hop community, is shot and killed at a cookie shop.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Offer available in the CNMI until November 30, 2021. Promotional rates based on 30-month device installments on the NOW program. Available to new and port-in activations only. While supplies last. Subject to credit checks. Additional conditions may apply.

Local

Man allegedly trespassed at PIC quarantine facility

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police officers stationed at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan has arrested a man for allegedly trespassing at the site, which is a designated COVID-19 quarantine site.

Two police officers arrested Taisacan Joseph Taisacan, 23, last week, for allegedly trespassing at the PIC quarantine site. Police noted that Taisacan was arrested months prior on similar charges.

During his initial bail hearing last Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a $500 cash bail on Taisacan and he was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody.

Taisacan, who waived his preliminary last Monday, will be arraigned on Nov. 29, at 9am before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety officers Rodigan Jepen and Edwin Basto had been conducting a routine check at the northern beach side of PIC when Jepen saw a shirtless male, later identified as Taisacan, making his way toward the northern gate of PIC. He then turned and began walking toward the beach side.

Jepen noted that he recognized Taisacan from a previous encounter when he had actually entered the facility without authorization.

As Jepen was notifying his immediate supervisor about Taisacan, the trespasser allegedly tried to flee leading to a pursuit on foot that resulted in his arrest. Taisacan was arrested on charges of criminal trespass and nuisance.

According to Basto, he was approximately 50 feet away from Jepen when he heard Jepen talking to someone. Basto then turned around and began making his way towards Jepen.

As Basto made his way toward Jepen who was transmitting over the radio and

communicating with their supervisor, Taisacan took off running south toward Pak Pak Beach located south of the quarantine site.

Basto said Jepen ran after Taisacan and shortly after, he saw Jepen tackle him to the ground.

Basto said he assisted Jepen in securing Taisacan before escorting him to the front parking lot where he was later picked up and transported to the Department of Corrections.

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Torres enacts law that OKs DPL to issue encroachment permits

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has signed into law a bill that authorizes the Department of Public Lands to issue encroachment permits and charge fees for the use of public lands located within 150 feet of the high water mark.

High water mark refers to the highest water stand reached by a lake or river, or highest level reached by the sea at high tide.

Torres recently informed Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) that House Bill 22-31, HS1, is now Public Law 22-11. The House passed the bill on Aug. 31. The Senate passed it without amendments on Sept. 14.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) is the author of the bill. The co-sponsors are vice speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan), Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan).

Guerrero stated in the bill that DPL does not have the statutory authority to charge for the use of the public lands located within 150 feet of the high water mark.

Guerrero said DPL only has the authority to prohibit the erection of permanent structures.

Under the bill, DPL may not transfer an interest, and may prohibit the erection of any permanent structure in public lands located within 150 feet of the high water mark of a sandy beach with the following exceptions:

- DPL may authorize the construction of facilities for public purposes.
- DPL may grant encroachment permits provided that the use does not interfere with the public's access to the public lands.
- Encroachment permits may be issued to persons who have a legal interest in an adjoining property, and who are currently maintaining an encroaching structure, improvement, or other item, in exchange for a fee.

The encroachment must have been in place prior to the effective date of this new law.

Any such permit may have a term of up to five years and may be renewed at the discretion of DPL.

The annual fee for any such permit shall not be less than 1% or not be greater than 4% of the fair market value of the public land on which the encroaching structure , improvement, or other item sits.

Rep. Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Natural Resources, earlier stated that the changes that are being proposed will allow DPL to charge for encroachment of existing structures only.

Babauta said this will not allow for the construction of new buildings or new permanent structures by any businesses.

Online CNMI cannabis hub to be launched soon

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A website that will showcase the CNMI's growing cannabis industry and the CNMI's cannabis strains, allow customers to make online cannabis order reservations, and be the first in the CNMI to give customers the latest information on daily deals at CNMI dispensaries will soon be launched.

The website, RealGoodys, is currently partnered with CanaMarianas, The Health Co., and Saipan Select, with many more future partnerships in the works.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, RealGoodys said the goal for the website is to meet the CNMI community's cannabis needs, be a way for overseas visitors to place order reservations before arriving in the CNMI, and minimize face-to-face interactions for safety reasons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"RealGoodys is a place for the people to know where to go, [and to know] which dispensary has whichever strains [they] want. We created this online platform to help the CNMI community with their cannabis needs, be it either for health reasons or for recreational purposes," said the RealGoodys email.

"We wanted a place for people to go online, not waste gas [traveling and visiting multiple dispensaries], and [minimize] further interaction with other people due to the rise of COVID-19. ...This is also the perfect way for overseas visitors to place their order reservations while on the way to the CNMI, and visiting our shores to enjoy some R&R, the cannabis way, to ensure that stock items won't be sold out when they arrive," it added.

RealGoodys said Thursday that after signing up on the website, RealGoodys customers will be able to place online order reservations for strains. A dispensary that has the strains in stock will be notified of the order and will reserve the product for customer pickup.

"Our platform's [purpose] is to inform our visitors, and we hope that we do that with all our participating dispensary partners. We are also excited for the future, [and] there is much exciting news that we can't wait to share with everyone," the RealGoodys email adds.

RealGoodys stakeholders Daniel R. Miller II and Valentina Rivera will soon be sharing further details about RealGoodys next week.

Dollar Days is latest ProaPerks partner

Dollar Days is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 10% discount on regular priced items and a 5% discount on party items at Dollar Days.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

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First lady's ex-bodyguard testifies at JGO hearing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee resumed yesterday its hearing on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels, the panel called on a police sergeant who was formerly assigned as protective security detail for first lady Diann T. Torres.

Appearing yesterday before the committee, police sergeant Flora Aguon testified, among other things, that she was never asked to assist with personal shopping for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres and that the first couple attended many meetings in Washington, D.C., Montana, and Guam. She said she was never asked to "take care" of the Torres couple's children and family members, that no one has approached her to sign a nondisclosure agreement, and no one pressured her testimony. Aguon appeared with her counsel, Anthony Aguon.

Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the committee, later said the hearing will resume today, Friday, at 10:30am, during which police officer Jhaneeka Atalig and the governor's chief of staff, William "Wil" Castro, will appear.

Flora Aguon told the committee that she was assigned as a protective security detail or personal security detail for the first lady from January to July 2017.

In response to questions from vice speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), Aguon said she has not signed a nondisclosure agreement and that she was not approached by anyone to sign such an agreement.

She said she was offered the opportunity to be personal security detail for the first lady and has no knowledge whether the Torreses specifically asked for her.

She said she received a specialized training—PSD training— and that her supervisor at that time was Joey Cruz.

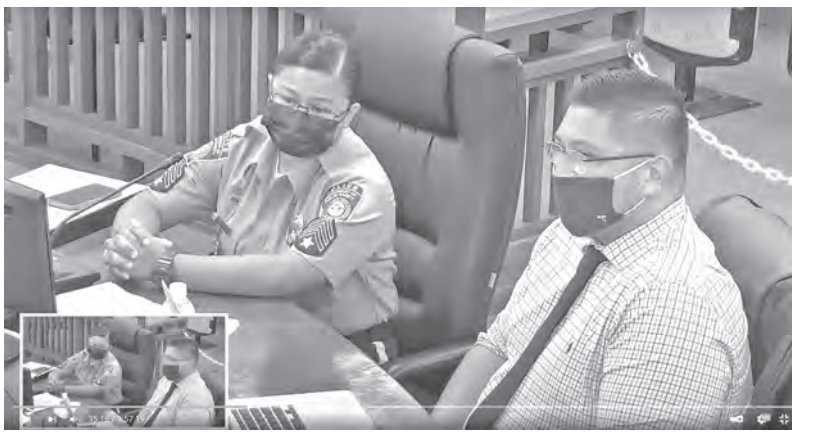
In response to Babauta's follow-up questions, Aguon said it was Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero who offered her the PSD assignment. She said her duties and responsibilities was basically just to provide protective service detail for the first lady to and from her residence and to any events that she had to attend. Aguon said that, as PSD, she did drive Diann Torres to official functions and non-official, non-government functions, such as when Diann Torres was invited to weddings and proclamation signings.

Aguon acknowledged that she did drive Diann Torres' children to school or pick them up from school but the first lady would always with her in the car. She said she was never asked or instructed to look after the Torres children or otherwise take care of other members of the Torres family.

Aguon said she was never asked to assist with the personal shopping of the Torres family.

She said she does not recall being asked to do other types of personal errands for the Torres family, nor ever signing or receiving any cargo for the first lady, or Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, or for anybody in the family.

She said she was not ever asked to assist in any way with the first lady's foundation, the Lady Diann Torres Foundation.



In this screengrab, police sergeant Flora Aguon, who was formerly assigned as protective security detail for first lady Diann T. Torres, goes over some papers with her lawyer, Anthony Aguon, as she testifies yesterday before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

The sergeant said she does not recall if she ever accompanied the first lady on any excursions on a DPS boat but she did drive the first lady in a government vehicle.

She said she does not recall ever accompanying the first lady in attending any campaign functions or political activities.

Aguon said she does not recall ever attending with the first lady anything involving representatives of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

As with most of her testimonies on trips taken by the Torres couple, Aguon expressed some recollections of some of the trips or does not remember some details or she has no specific knowledge.

When asked, "Have you ever been pressured or anything with regard to your testimony here today?" Aguon replied "No, sir."

Aguon also claimed she does not recall if the first couple traveled business or first class.

She said she was mostly on those trips to provide PDS for the first lady, so she has no idea as to the activities of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. Aguon said she is providing PSD for the first lady and that's all she was doing.

Aguon said she got instruction from her supervisor when it comes to accompanying the first lady on trips and that she never received any such instructions from DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero.

CHINA

From Page 1

ing an angry protest to China and a warning from the Philippine government that its vessels are covered under a mutual defense treaty with the United States, Manila's top diplomat said Thursday.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said no one was hurt in the incident in the disputed waters on Tuesday, but the two supply ships had to abort their mission to provide food supplies to Filipino forces occupying the Second Thomas Shoal, which lies off western Palawan province in the Philippines' internationally recognized exclusive economic zone.

Locsin said in a tweet that the three Chinese coast guard ships' actions were illegal and he urged them "to take heed and back off."

The Philippine government has conveyed to China "our outrage, condemnation and protest of the incident," Locsin said, adding that "this failure to exercise self-restraint threatens the special relationship between the Philippines and China" that President Rodrigo Duterte and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, have worked hard to nurture.

There was no immediate comment from Chinese officials in Manila or Beijing.

The incident is the latest flare-up in the long-simmering territorial disputes in the strategic waterway, where China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have overlapping claims. China claims virtually the entire waterway and has transformed seven disputed shoals into missile-protected island bases to cement its claims, ratcheting up tensions and alarming rival claimants and Western governments led by the U.S.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon told reporters in Manila that the government will deploy coast guard and Bureau of Fisheries vessels instead of Navy ships to back up Filipino forces and enforce Philippine fishing laws at Second Thomas Shoal, which Filipinos call Ayungin and China refers to as the Ren'ai reef.

The number of Chinese surveillance ships has increased in recent weeks in the far-flung shoal and also around Thitu, a larger Philippine-occupied island in the Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea's most hotly contested area, he said.

Philippine forces won't be deterred from traveling again to the shoal following the incident, he said.

"We will continue the resupply and we do not have to ask the permission of anybody because that is within our territory," Esperon said.

The Philippine military deliberately ran aground a World War II-era warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, at the submerged shoal in 1999 to fortify its claim and provide a shelter to a small contingent of Filipino marines.

The Sierra Madre is now effectively a rusty shipwreck but the Philippine military has not decommissioned it. That makes the ship an extension of the government and means any attack on the ship is tantamount to an assault against the Philippines.

In 2014, the Philippine military invited more than a dozen journalists, TV cameramen and photographers, including from The Associated Press, on a resupply mission to the shoal in a bid to draw global attention to what Philippine officials have called China's bullying tactics.

Two Chinese coast guard ships tried to block the slow-moving, military-chartered vessel carrying the journalists, with one cutting dangerously through the Philippine boat's path twice. The Chinese coast guard warned the Philippine boat by radio to turn back, saying it was illegally venturing into Chinese territory.

The Chinese ships blew their horns intimidatingly, but the boat managed to maneuver toward the Sierra Madre through shallow waters dotted with rocky coral outcrops, preventing the Chinese ship from pursuing.

NMI

From Page 1

As of Nov. 17, there are now 51 active cases in the CNMI.

CHCC said Wednesday that the nine new cases have since been isolated and are being actively monitored.

CHCC also reported that a total of 438 tests were conducted on Nov. 16 comprising travel and surveillance testing.

Since Oct. 28, there have been 117 new cases. Of the 117, 83 were identified through contact tracing, 25 through community-based testing, and nine through travel testing.

CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already reached out to those who were in closest contact with the new positive cases and that the team will continue its efforts "until all probable cases are identified and tested."

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified of two more COVID-19-related fatalities

The 261st COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City on Nov. 17, 2021. The patient was a 40-year-old female, unvaccinated with underlying health conditions. She tested positive on Oct. 23, 2021.

The 262nd COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital yesterday. The patient was a 58-year-old male, unvaccinated with underlying health conditions. He also tested positive yesterday.

"The island is saddened with each tragic passing," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "To their loved ones, [we] will continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers. This pandemic has already taken so much. We must remain the course to not let it take anymore from our community."

IPI

From Page 1

U.S. District Court for the NMI to grant an expedited hearing because IPI should not be able to continue to delay payment of the over $5-million judgement.

"There can be no dispute that Pacific Rim is entitled to satisfaction of the judgment entered on May 28, 2020. IPI should not be able to continue to delay payment. Pacific Rim should finally be compensated for the work it performed in 2018. Time is of the essence. Pacific Rim respectfully requests an expedited hearing at the court's earliest convenience," Thompson said.

The over $5 million that Pacific Rim wants released consists of short-term U.S. government bonds that is with brokerage firm Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.

That money—amounting to $5,525,363.98—was provided by IPI investor Pacific International Property Management LLC for the purpose of securing a stay in a previous court order while IPI appeals the ruling or to pay on the judgment in the event Pacific Rim prevails in the appeal.

Last Nov. 16, Pacific Rim's Thompson filed a memorandum stating that the district court should make its determination regarding the release of monies to Pacific Rim, which prevailed on the appeal and therefore is entitled to the release of the funds.

"Pacific Rim moves this court to release $5,525,363.98 immediately to Pacific Rim and for the remaining amount to be released to Thompson Law LLC client trust account until further order from the court," he said.

The request stems from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's recent order that affirmed the decision of the District Court for the NMI that denied the request of IPI to postpone the summary judgment in favor of Pacific Rim.

IPI sought to postpone the summary judgment, saying it had not been able to conduct discovery on its affirmative defense of fraud in the inducement.

However, the District Court denied IPI's request, saying the casino investor failed to satisfy the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure.

IPI then appealed to the Ninth Circuit, which affirmed the district court's ruling last month.

Meanwhile, in her order establishing security pending appeal dated 2020, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona stated that Pacific International Property Management LLC or PIPM had resolved to place $5,525,363.98 within the absolute discretion of the court for the purpose of securing a stay and paying on the judgment in the event that Pacific Rim prevail in the appeal.

According to court documents, Pacific Rim sued IPI for breach of contract for refusing to pay for services in the amount of $5.65 million after Pacific Rim substantially completed or completed agreed-upon construction work for IPI's casino-resort project on Sept. 30, 2018.

On April 27, 2020, Manglona entered a judgment in favor of Pacific Rim for breach of contract and breach of promissory note.

On May 2, 2020, the federal court entered an amended civil judgment in favor of Pacific Rim in the amount of $6.8 million, including the principal amount and attorney's fees and costs.

No hard answer yet on when to shift from prevention to protection

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The increasing number of COVID-19 infections from local transmission is prompting some people to ask: "At what point will we shift from preventing the spread to protecting against the spread?"

The cautious response to that is for everyone to remain guarded as more transmissible and deadly variants of COVID-19 may still emerge globally and CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña advises to "wait until after the holidays" for any further updates on this subject.

During the question-and-answer portion of the Nov. 16 "CNMI Safe Travel Summit" at the Kensington Hotel Saipan, one of the questions raised was: "With the high rate of vaccinations [against COVID-19 in the CNMI], with the new treatments, with the success that we've had, and all the precautionary measures taken, at what point will we shift from preventing the spread [of COVID-19] to protecting against the spread"?

Muña said there have been discussions to treat COVID-19 as an endemic disease versus a pandemic one. "There's a lot of discussions already being made about considering [COVID-19] as an endemic versus a pandemic, but we have to also be cautious because we don't know [what] different variants can emerge," said Muña.

She added that the millions of unvaccinated Americans remain a cause for concern, as it is through incoming arrivals that COVID-19 and multiple variants were brought to the CNMI. According to Our World in Data's COVID-19 dashboard, 194 million Americans, or 58.8.% of the U.S.' population, are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

"We still have a lot of unvaccinated individuals in the U.S. alone. ...There is that concern, but there is a discussion to transition to an endemic. But again, we still have to be careful. ...I would probably wait until after the holidays where we'll probably see some information [by then on] whether we transition to an endemic and [focus on] protecting versus prevention," Muña added.

Muña

According to Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, the World Health Organization declares a pandemic when a disease's growth is exponential, meaning that the growth rate skyrockets and case numbers grow more than the day prior.

An endemic would be a disease outbreak that is consistently present but limited to a particular region, making disease spread and rates predictable. Columbia, in its online definition, cited malaria as an example of an endemic. Other popular endemic examples found online include the flu and common cold.

The CNMI Office of the Governor, CHCC, and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force held the "CNMI Safe Travel Summit" to give a status report on the CNMI's COVID-19 response and to announce changes to the CNMI's COVID-19 quarantine policies effective Nov. 19 for domestic travelers. Many of the CNMI's public and private stakeholders attended in person, with many others tuning in to a livestream of the summit on Facebook.

Effective Nov. 19, fully vaccinated travelers with proof of a fully vaccinated household will no longer need to quarantine. Fully vaccinated travelers with a household that is not verified to be fully vaccinated will have to quarantine at a designated site for five days, and unvaccinated travelers will have to quarantine at a designated site for seven days.

Fully vaccinated travelers will be tested on their fifth day since arriving on the CNMI, and unvaccinated travelers on their seventh day. If travelers fail to appear for their fifth or seventh-day testing, the traveler and the contacts they listed on their mandatory health declaration form will be contacted by CHCC.

Rodney S. Cabarles Chairman | Joseph T. San Nicolas Vice Chairman | Joanna C. Aldan Secretary | Ringo C. Reyes Treasurer | Vacant Board Member

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  - September 30, 2021 (TMSB Special Meeting)

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. OLD BUSINESS
IV. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Appeals
  - 1. Review
- B. Office space
  - 1. Discussion

V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3] Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

16th SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
P.O. Box 500309 CK, Saipan, MP 96950-0309
Telephone # (670) 664-2700/2701
Email: spnmunicipalcouncil@gmail.com

Ana Demapam- Castro, *CHAIRPERSON* | Antonia M. Tudela, *VICE CHAIRPERSON* | Daniel I. Aquino, *SECRETARY*

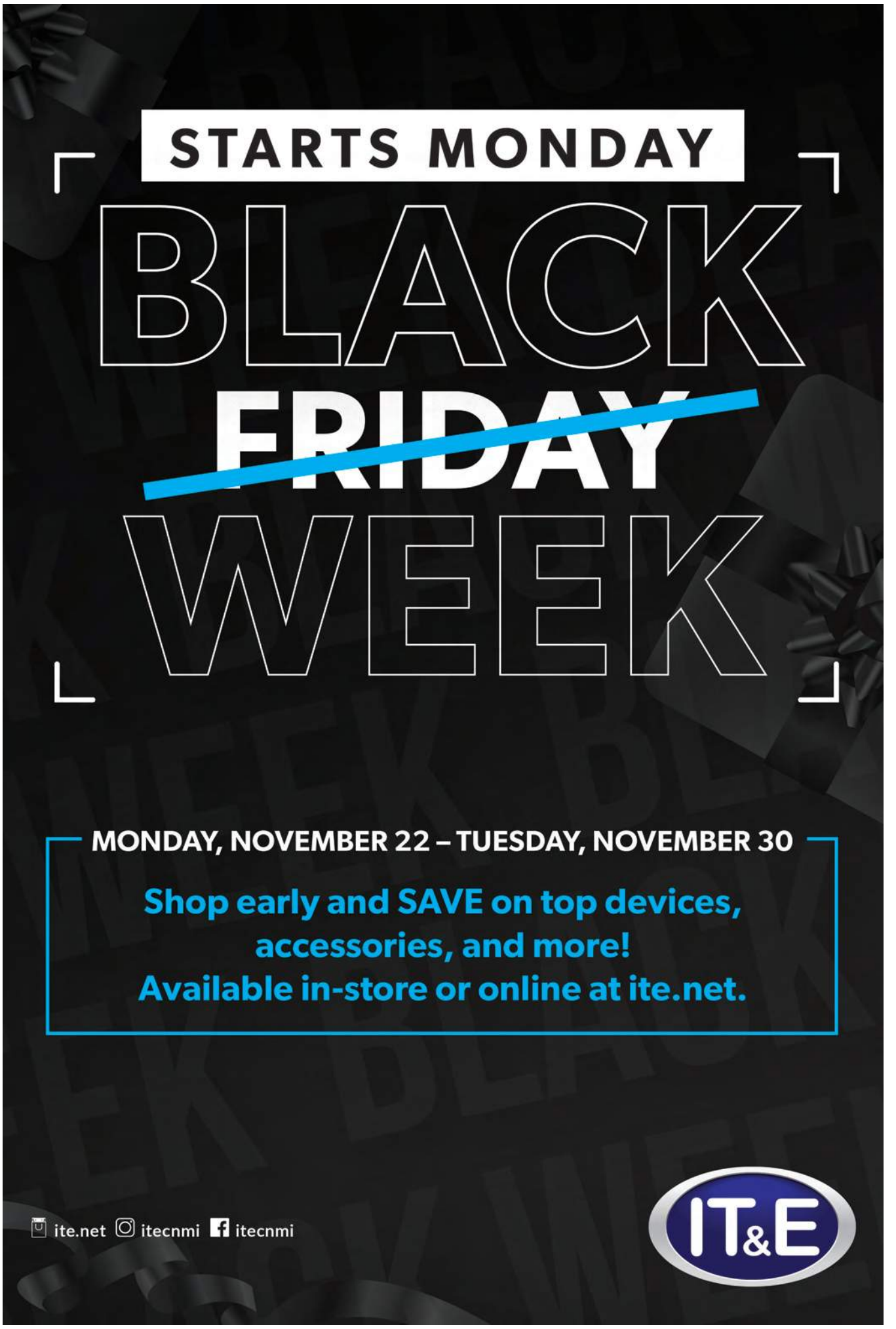
12th Regular Session
16th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council

Tuesday, November 23, 2021, 10:00 am
Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Kiosku, Chalan Kanoa

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Call of the Roll
3. Public Comments
4. Adoption of Minutes – August 23, 2021
5. Introduction of Resolution: None
6. Introduction of Bills (Ordinance): None
7. Communications to the Council:
   Office of the Public Auditor – inventory survey of purchased and lease vehicles
   HLB 22-13; HB 22-22; HB 22-38; HB 22-58
8. Presentation of reports by:
   - I. Council Staff:
     - a. Executive Director
     - b. Administrative Officer
   - II. Council Members:
     - a. Chair
     - b. Vice Chair (Acting Chair)
     - c. Secretary
9. Resolutions Calendared: None
10. Bills Calendared: None
11. Unfinished Business:
    - a. Proposed user Fee for Kiosku
    - b. Employee's Handbook
    - c. Kiosku repair project
    - d. Municipal Council Building Project
12. New Business:
    - a. 2021 Citizen Centric Report
    - b. Fiscal Plan – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
    - c. Tyler-Munis Financial Management System
    - d. Fund Status
13. Announcement
14. Adjournment

/s/ Ana Demapan-Castro
Chairperson



Public invited to Japanese Society's Autumn Festival

The Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas announced yesterday the return of its Autumn Festival, which will take place this year on Nov. 20, a Saturday, from 5pm to 9pm at the Paseo de Marianas.

The festival, which is traditionally held to promote the Japanese culture and to show the society's commitment to the local community, will feature garage sales from 4pm to 6pm as a fundraising for the Japanese school on Saipan.

The opening ceremony will start at 6pm with the breaking of sake barrel.

Food vendors will be selling popular Japanese food like takoyaki, yakitori, and daifuku mochi, and there will be game booths: shooting gallery, ring toss, water balloon fishing.

Raffle are also planned with the attractive prizes like a $200 gift card, $50 cash, hotel accommodations, and more.

In addition, there will be gifts from the mayor of Katori City in Japan as a show of appreciation to the community for supporting the sister-city program between Saipan and Katori City, which was established on Oct. 29, 2021. The number of gifts is limited and will be handed out on a first come, first serve basis.

Food, games, and raffle tickets can be purchased with special tokens. Tokens are available to buy in advance at Himawari, Takagi Associates, Furusato, and Aqua Connections.

Bonodori dance performances will start around 7pm and 8pm. We encourage the public to join the dance.

This festival is one of the many examples of the historic ties between the Marianas and Japan, and the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas warmly welcomes all residents to attend the event.

"We have been facing a difficult time because of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Please follow 3W's; Wear your mask, Wash your hands, and Watch your distance. All of our assisting staffs are fully vaccinated. We would like you to stay safe and enjoy the festival," said Hideaki Sawada, president of the Japanese Society of Northern Marianas. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Governor encourages sex abuse victims to make their voices heard

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres is encouraging victims of sexual abuse to step up and make their voice heard.

Speaking at his regular radio press briefing last Friday, Torres said he just signed into Public Law 21-12 a bill authored by Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) that removes the statute of limitations on sexual abuse claims.

"We need to focus on the victims," said Torres, adding that the government is here to protect them.

He said it's a very touchy subject, but to the community and all family members of the victims, they should not forget that this law is intended to protect the victims. "It has always been about protecting victims," the governor said.

The bill amends the Commonwealth Code to authorize civil claims for child sexual abuse to be commenced at any time. Guerrero said this bill addresses the statute of limitation to include filing civil lawsuit against all defendants that took advantage of defenseless individuals just for the perpetrators' gratification.

Guerrero encourages victims of sexual assault to speak out. "There is no shame at all to hold accountable the perpetrators for the pain, scares, depression and expenses for victims who, for years, found it difficult to let go and move on with their lives," the lawmaker said.

Kilili says the NMI to get $897,986 in 3 coral reef conservation grants

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said over the weekend that the Northern Marianas will be awarded three fiscal year 2021 coral reef conservation grants totaling $897,986.

In his e-kilili newsletter, Sablan said the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced last week that the Coastal Resources Management is receiving $652,529 to help fund the Northern Marianas Coral Reef Conservation Cooperative Agreement to sustain coral reef management and monitoring.

He said the Johnston Applied Marine Sciences was awarded $169,082 in a second tranche of funding for a three-year, $975,944 project to scale up coral restoration efforts through the outplanting of juvenile corals in the Marianas.

Sablan said the project will also build local capacity to implement coral sexual propagation methods as part of a broader restoration strategy.

He said third grant, Oregon State University's Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies, is receiving $76,375 for its coral conservation and science project in the Marianas titled Bathymetric Lidar Waveform Analysis and Algorithym Development for Characterizing Coral Reef Morphologies.

Appropriated annually by U.S. Congress, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program received $33 million in fiscal year 2021. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'We follow COVID-19 Task Force's lead'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

When it comes to enforcement of mandatory quarantine, the power of enforcement does not fall under Department of Public Safety's jurisdiction. Rather, they follow the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force's lead, according to DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero.

When asked about David Butterfield's action to flout quarantine restrictions at the Kanoa Resort Hybrid Quarantine facility last month and how DPS will ensure that it won't happen again, Guerrero said the department merely follows the task force's lead in terms of enforcement.

"We take the lead from them when they need further assistance for security purposes. There's a strong collaboration between DPS and the task force in terms of securing the community from COVID-19 spread," he said.

Guerrero explained that the task force provides the guidelines and, if additional officers are needed for security purposes, then DPS will provide that.

Saipan Tribune learned that the task force has yet to charge Butterfield following his "escape" from the facility.

According to the *Saipan Tribune* archives, DPS arrested Butterfield last Oct. 18, after he fled the Kanoa Resort quarantine facility six days into his mandatory quarantine.

Butterfield, who arrived from Guam on Oct. 12, was arrested around 11:13am on Oct. 18, after police pulled him over in the parking area of American Nails in Garapan.

Butterfield, who is a freelance photographer, claims he walked straight out of the quarantine facility on Sunday evening. In a lengthy note he posted on social media hours before his arrest, he said he left Kanoa because he did not agree with the task force's quarantine protocols for non-vaccinated individuals.

However, COVID-19 Task force chair Warren Villagomez claims Butterfield "escaped" through a fire escape.

Butterfield also noted in his post that he is not vaccinated and has already had COVID-19 but has since recovered.

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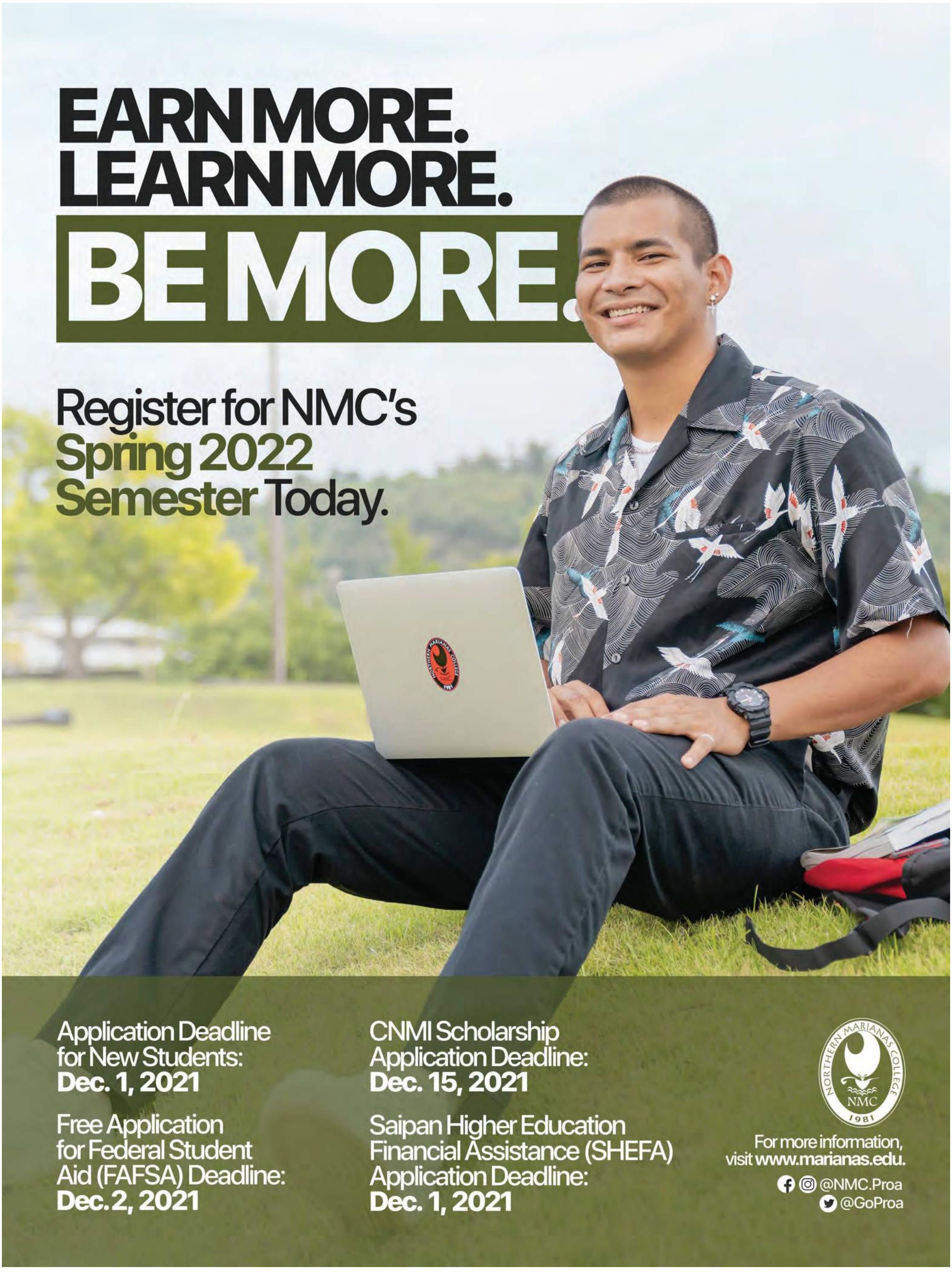
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*This event is approved by the Covid Task Force.

CNMI updates entry protocol

With approximately 90% of the CNMI's adult population having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and approximately 84% of its residents already fully vaccinated, combined with the rollout of the pediatric COVID-19 vaccines, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be implementing a comprehensive testing and surveillance strategy that will strengthen the travel process to rapidly identify and contact CNMI residents at risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Effective Nov. 19, 2021, all inbound domestic travelers are required to provide additional contact information on the mandatory health declaration form, and quarantine will be determined by the vaccination status of the traveler and their household.

Travelers verified as fully vaccinated and verified as residing in a fully vaccinated household or lodging are not required to quarantine at all, but will be required to get tested for COVID-19 between Days 3-5 after arrival, depending on their day of exit from the CNMI. If exiting prior to Day 5, their contacts will also be required to test for COVID-19.

Fully vaccinated travelers not verified as residing in a fully vaccinated household or lodging are required to quarantine for five days in a designated government facility, and will be tested after the five-day quarantine. This includes a fully vaccinated traveler residing with children ineligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Unvaccinated travelers are required to quarantine in a designated government facility for seven days, and will be tested after the seven-day quarantine. Any traveler who tests positive for COVID-19 will be isolated in the designated government facility for an additional 10 days.

Travelers are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 if it has been:

■ Two weeks (14 days) after their dose of an accepted single-dose or

■ Two weeks (14 days) after their second dose of an accepted 2-dose series.

All travelers and residents are reminded to practice the 3 W's at all times: wear your mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance.

Fully vaccinated individuals are responsible for uploading onto their health declaration form proof of completing a COVID-19 vaccine series. The vaccination record must include the following information: vaccine administrator, recipient's name, recipient's date of birth, vaccination site, vaccine name, vaccination administration date, lot number, and vaccine expiration date.

For travelers vaccinated outside the CNMI, in addition to the CDC Vaccination Record Card, an official immunization record or an attestation statement may be required by the CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team. The attestation statement confirms that the information provided in the health declaration form is true and is subject to CNMI laws that may lead to criminal fines. For individuals who were vaccinated in the CNMI, vaccination records from CHCC will be used to verify vaccination status.

This new strategy will permit testing on a larger, comprehensive scale to allow for wider surveillance of COVID-19. CHCC will offer community-based testing more than once a week. Community-based testing dates will be announced at covidtesting.chcc.health.

All travelers are encouraged to fill out their health declaration form prior to arrival at www.staysafecnmi.com.

The COVID-19 Infoline has a new number and operating hours. For comments, concerns, and inquiries regarding entry or quarantine protocols, call (670) 488-0211 or email travel@vaccinatecnmi.com. The hotline runs from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Sunday.

The safety of the residents of the CNMI remains the top priority of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC. The CNMI is reminded to watch out for misinformation and to follow updates directly from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC. The spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, contact the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233- 2067. The hotline runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Updates from the COVID-19 Task Force and the CHCC can be found on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts @governorcnmi and @cnmichcc, as well as through CNMI media partners. ***(PR)***

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For questions or inquiries please contact Marcia E. Ayuyu or Ana Olaes at admin@jcamcd.com or at telephone no. (670)235-8761

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Glasgow climate summit brought incremental progress. That's a failure

The U.N. summit in Glasgow concluded over the weekend with a new climate agreement among nearly 200 countries that drew applause from world leaders in attendance.

But they should be embarrassed patting themselves on the back over something so inadequate. The two-week proceeding brought incremental progress, but that in itself is a colossal failure.

We need bold and swift action to avert a catastrophic rise in global temperatures, but got mostly timid compromises, far-off pledges and watered-down commitments. This is an emergency, and it is too late to tinker around the edges and call it progress.

Case in point: The Glasgow pact for the first time in more than 25 years of negotiations makes explicit reference to the fossil fuels that are causing climate change. But it calls only for a "phasedown of unabated coal"—language that was supposed to read "phase-out" until it was weakened at the last minute by India. It calls for a "phase-out" of "inefficient" fossil-fuel subsidies, but includes no commitment to ending oil and gas production.

Is this really what our leaders were celebrating?

That's not to say the conference was a total bust. Leading up to the summit, more than 150 countries submitted new or updated climate pledges. Rich countries promised to "at least double" funding for vulnerable countries to adapt to a hotter planet. And leaders now plan to "revisit and strengthen" their climate pledges by the end of next year, meaning we won't have to wait for years to see whether their actions are progressing.

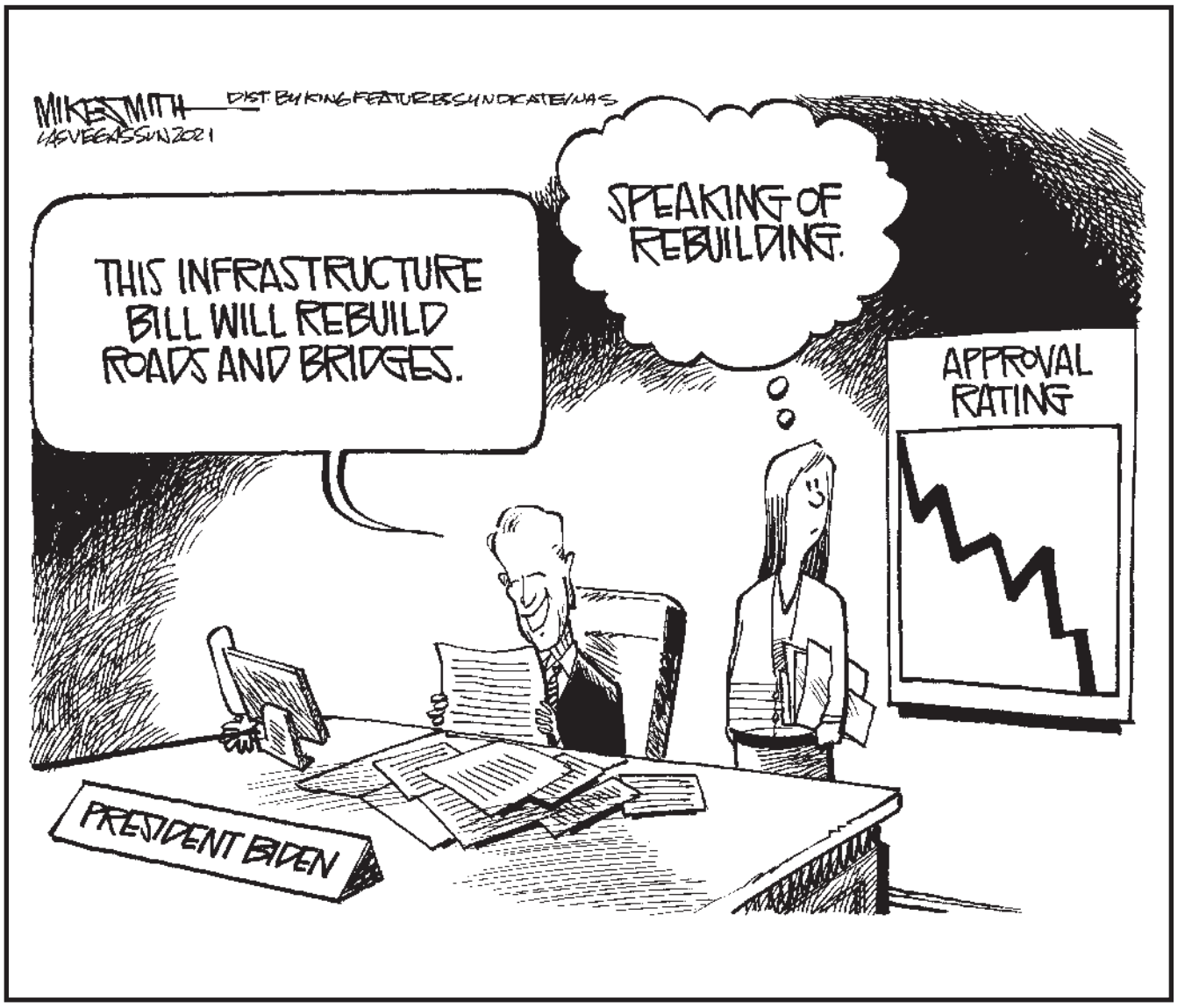
The U.S. and China, the planet's two biggest polluters, pledged to work together on "enhanced climate actions," and Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Biden were set to meet virtually on Monday. There were commitments from the U.S. and more than 100 other nations to curb methane emissions and combat deforestation. Other countries announced plans to switch to electric vehicles and to end fossil fuel extraction, things that need to happen to avert catastrophic warming. But the failure of the U.S. and other major polluters to join some of those initiatives was deeply concerning.

The U.S. is, of course, in a better position to tackle climate change now. President Trump abandoned the 2015 Paris agreement and pursued cruel and reckless environmental policies at the blatant behest of fossil fuel interests. But Trump's conduct set an embarrassingly low bar.

The U.S. is back at the table, with President Biden striking a conciliatory tone, promising to lead by example and put its commitments into action. But the fact that the U.S. is still blocking or abstaining from so many essential commitments, like phasing out fossil fuels and vehicles powered by them, shows how much our government is still dragging its feet.

Rich countries that are responsible for most of the planet-warming emissions in the atmosphere still failed to come through for vulnerable, low-lying island nations and developing countries that are paying the price. Opposition from the

See GLASGOW on Next Page



Just tell everybody to go get a COVID booster

By SCOTT DUKE KOMINERS
Bloomberg Opinion

Scott Duke Kominers is the MBA Class of 1960 Associate Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, and a faculty affiliate of the Harvard Department of Economics. Previously, he was a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows and the inaugural research scholar at the Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics at the University of Chicago.

It looks as though the White House may have finally figured out the obvious: It's time to roll out COVID-19 booster shots to everyone, ASAP.

Medical specialists are still debating the extent to which boosters are strictly necessary, given that one- and two-dose vaccine regimens seem to be protecting people against life-threatening disease. And there's an ethical debate about whether it's fair to give Americans third shots when lots of people in other parts of the world are still awaiting their first.

But these debates have left behind a confusing morass of conflicting rules and blurry guidance, undercutting public health.

Evidence has been mounting since early summer that the immunity provided by the vaccines starts to wane at or before the six-month mark.[1] It's not scientifically clear whether vaccinated people will be at risk of death or impairment, but why take a chance? With the U.S. having completed much of its vaccination in the spring and early summer, boosters could help avert a winter surge.

Yet so far, booster take-up has been slow. Only 15% of fully vaccinated Americans have received a booster dose so far, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. The numbers in the 65-and-up group—the people most vulnerable to serious disease—aren't good either: only 36%.

With boosters, the main problem isn't vaccine hesitancy. It's the confusing set of criteria the U.S. has adopted for eligibility.

It's just too hard to parse. Some people are advised that they "should" get a booster at the six-month mark. That guidance covers anyone who received a two-dose vaccine and is 65 or older; those between 50 and 64 with certain medical conditions; and younger adults living in long-term care settings. Others are told that they "may" get a booster after six months: that's those 18 to 49 with medical conditions, or younger people working or living in "high-risk settings." And then there are people who got the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine; they're all directed back to the clinic at the two-month mark.

With instructions that convoluted, it's hard for Americans to figure out whether they're eligible. And as has unfortunately been the case throughout the pandemic, public-health agencies haven't done much to make the message clearer.

Moreover, the guidance may be lagging the actual public health situation. Cases in the U.S. are starting to tick up again, and at least five states and New York City have responded by opening up booster eligibility to all. That's a step forward, even as it muddles the situation further by conflicting with federal guidance.

The U.S. should clear up the confusion by issuing a straightforward and simple instruction. There's some question of the proper age and timing thresholds for booster eligibility, but the right message is more or less, "Everyone should get one."

The reality is that the U.S. is far from conquering the pandemic, with over 1,000 deaths a day, mostly among the unvaccinated, for months. That pace would produce an annual death rate on the order of six times the toll of even the worst recent flu season. Plus, to the extent that life has moved back toward some semblance of normalcy, it's precisely because of the protection vaccines have afforded. As immunity wanes, that protection is likely to diminish.

Boosters are essential to maintaining—and hopefully improving—the status quo. And that's especially true as people plan holiday travel.

Yes, there are reasonable questions of international vaccine equity. But the objectives of delivering boosters and speeding up global vaccination don't have to be in conflict. It's possible to do both at the same time. Moreover, the U.S. has already ordered booster doses for delivery, and they'll go to waste if they aren't administered.

When it comes to public health, complexity is counterproductive. The right way to think about boosters is also the simplest: Tell people to get them, right now.

[1] In particular, the mucosal antibodies that help prevent people from catching COVID-19 seem to decline, which means that even those for whom the vaccine protects against severe disease can still become infected and spread the virus to others.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What is Transgender Day of Remembrance and why is it important?

By JORDAN RIOLDAN
T-PROJECT ANGEL

Note from T-Project founder Tyra Lyn Sablan: *On Nov. 20, 2021, we will be celebrating Transgender Day of Remembrance. I cannot thank each and everyone one of you enough for your contributions to our community. It is because of people like you who take action in ensuring that every community member has an equal opportunity to thrive that powers our movement for social justice. In celebration of Transgender Day of Remembrance, I would like to share with you a passionate and beautiful essay one of our T-Project Angels.*

LGBTQ* stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and the * symbolizes everyone in our community not represented in the five letters.

Yet for the longest time, LGBTQ* was only LGB. T was only added in the '90s, very recent considering how long the battle has been for LGBTQ* rights.

The word "transgender" didn't exist until 1971, but transgender (or trans) people certainly existed before 1971. The lack of descriptive words for being trans until recently makes it difficult to know and understand trans history and the experiences of trans people today.

Something said often is that trans women of color were pivotal in the Stonewall Riots, a famous moment in the modern fight for LGBTQ* rights. But 1969 predates the use of the word transgender. This affects our understanding of history and its participants.

It is widely accepted that Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera were transgender, but didn't have the words to properly explain their experience. Despite being willing to fight for their LGBTQ* peers, one year after the Stonewall Riots, it was cisgender, white, gay men who excluded trans people from the first annual march after Stonewall, and stripped protections for trans people from early LGBTQ* civil rights bills.

> A total of 44 trans people in the U.S. were murdered in 2020. ...This year, 45 trans people have been killed, and this is as of Nov. 9. *And the year isn't even over yet.*

The murders of trans people like Marsha P. Johnson and countless others still go uninvestigated and unreported. And we don't talk about it. Their voices are priceless, and a tragedy we cannot even begin to comprehend. And the loss hasn't stopped yet. We still attrition LGBTQ* people at an alarming rate. And for trans people it gets worse every year. A total of 44 trans people in the U.S. were murdered in 2020, the worst year on record at the time. This year, 45 trans people have been killed, and this is as of Nov. 9. *And the year isn't even over yet*. These are *minimum numbers*, as trans people's identities are not always known or reported when crimes occur. Additionally, trans identities can be intentionally concealed or ignored to avoid paperwork and process behind investigating hate crimes and drawing media attention to a region, as well as plain transphobia that exists in law enforcement.

Quite a long intro to my answer to this question: what is Transgender Day of Remembrance, and why is it important? So in short:

What is it? It is about recognizing the traumatic history and treatment of trans people both within and outside of the LGBTQ* community, and bringing greater awareness to the problems trans people faced, are facing, and will face without action. It is about showing our respect to the trans community who are historically the most inclusive and willing to fight for everyone, despite repeated exclusion by the same people they fought for. And it is about seeing the beauty of resilience and strength of trans people throughout history and today, and the contributions of trans people toward achieving true equality.

Why is it important? Because without awareness and action, we are ignoring, and complicit in, a significant and growing problem. Every day it is becoming more dangerous to be transgender in the United States and around the world, and we need everyone to know this fact, and that we will not allow it to continue. To learn about what it means to be transgender, to learn the history and impact trans people have had, and to show trans people that we will support and defend them, even and especially when others will not.

We've come a long way but we're just getting started. Dedicated to all those who never got to see the freedom we experience and take for granted today. Your contributions will never be forgotten.

Promoting village pride within our schools makes for better students

When the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers presented its Marianas Village Pride Campaign at the CNMI Public School System State Level Parent Summit on Oct. 9, our staff, teachers, and parents were immediately drawn to the concept. Within a week, GCEA received great feedback and support from all stakeholders, including the Board of Education from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Rota and Tinian were among the first to reach out to GCEA about its Adopt-A-Median campaign in which the school committed to sprucing up sidewalks, medians, and curbs around the campuses.

GCEA closed out its MVP Village Flag Art Contest this past Monday. Proudly, Marianas High School submitted more than 800 designs from students. We encourage schools to continue to get their entries in to be counted. I am so proud of the response, which is evident of how our youth desire to showcase their village and island pride. GCEA is taking the contest a step further and will announce when the students' artwork will be on display for everyone to enjoy. You'll be amazed at their creativity and thoughtfulness!

You may wonder why a village flag is important. Each village has its own identity that should be showcased and represented not only within the community but with visitors who come to the Marianas. The Village Flag Art competition allowed our students to take control and get creative about what their village is known for. One of the artists, Jemima Corpuz, drew a wonderful piece for Navy Hill, which happens to be my home village. Ms. Corpuz included the Mariana Lighthouse, a sunset, homes, and where Navy Hill is located on the Saipan map. She drew these iconic places because Navy Hill is known for its beautiful sceneries and sunsets. She also shared how proud she is to be staying in a beautiful place. This is wonderful and gives me a great feeling that each flag submission GCEA received showcases just how much each student is proud to be where they are from.

Though the flag art competition has ended, our community and students can continue to participate in upcoming MVP contests—the Bus Stop Beautification and Christmas Decoration contests. Both will give our residents more opportunities to showcase their village pride. This partnership and collaboration among our schools, families, and leaders will be strengthened with a sense of shared responsibility—a true definition of community.

Understanding the importance of an individual's role in the community builds an impactful sense of responsibility for our villages and islands. The Marianas is our home, and it is our responsibility to cherish and care for it as our ancestors did. We must continue to appreciate our village values, keep our pride alive, and teach them to our younger generations.

On behalf of PSS, we look forward to continuing this important village pride conversation with all 20 school administrators, PSS Central Office Programs, 20 school Parent-Teacher-Student Association officers, thousands of students throughout the islands, and on our official PSS social media channels. We invite you to join us and expand on these conversations in your homes.

Thank you GCEA for the opportunity to participate in the MVP campaign and for allowing our schools to partake in its efforts to promote a sense of belonging and pride. Together, and as a united community, we can build a safer, more beautiful, and loving Marianas.

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By LIELA YUMUL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Liela Yumul is the CNMI Public School System's Interim Family Engagement and Community Involvement Program manager under the Office of the Commissioner of Education. She leads various programs to support student growth and community engagement. She is the former principal of Garapan Elementary School.

GLASGOW

From Page 10

U.S. and the European Union means the question of funding for poorer nations to deal with drought, flooding and other already occurring climate impacts will be put off another year.

The world has already warmed by 1.1 degrees Celsius over preindustrial times, and the stated goal of the Glasgow conference was to instigate enough action to keep the temperature rise below 1.5 degrees and prevent truly dangerous levels of climate disruption. That's still theoretically possible, and we have a better chance than before. But let's be clear: It's not looking good.

The array of new climate pledges, if ultimately delivered on, would shave a fraction of a degree off the warming expected by the end of the century, and that's not enough to avoid calamity. The Earth is still on track to heat up by well over 2 degrees, and suffer disastrous impacts, unless countries cut pollution in half by 2030. But global emissions are still going up.

Young people and climate activists, who protested by the tens of thousands outside the conference to demand action instead of more talk, are right to be furious and even despondent over our leaders' failure to act. Our collective house is burning, and many politicians are treating it like a business negotiation, a chore to be sorted out next year.

Yet we delude ourselves if we think that climate change can be solved at a conference. There is no way to force any country to deliver on its promises. The process set up by the 2015 Paris accord relies essentially on naming and shaming countries that fail to deliver on their promises. If anything, Glasgow, like conferences before it, highlighted the chasm between world leaders' pledges and their actions.

Whether their promises are realized ultimately comes down to domestic policy. We must demand our representatives enact tough climate policies at the national, state and local level at every opportunity, or replace them with leaders who will. Because all of our lives depend on it.

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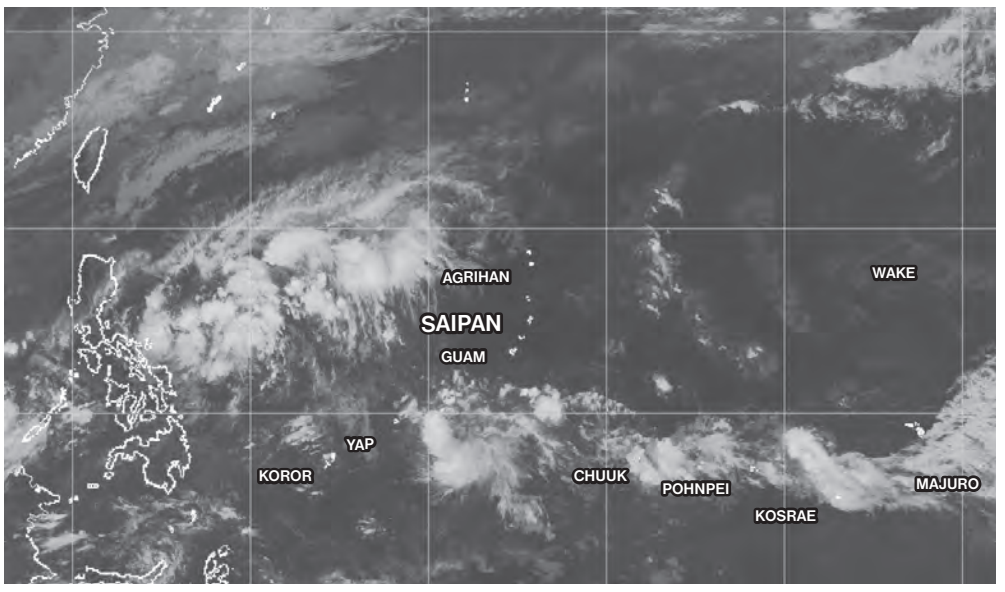
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows no showers within the Marianas waters. There are some showers that will likely pass just south of the Guam waters, however. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed mainly of trade-wind swell and waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Tuesday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:57 AM	5:39 PM
Saturday	-	6:48 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	-	7:39 AM	7:06 PM
Monday	-	8:31 AM	8:44 PM
Tuesday	-	9:22 AM	8:44 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	54° / 27°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°
London	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 56°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 61°
Miami	Rain	77° / 72°
New York	Sunny	49° / 37°
Osaka	Sunny	55° / 43°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	55° / 46°
Rome	Sunny	59° / 41°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	59° / 42°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 52°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	54° / 41°
Tokyo	Sunny	55° / 43°
Washington, DC	Sunny	49° / 34°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
1:40 AM	Low Tide	-0.18
8:23 AM	High Tide	1.64
1:50 PM	Low Tide	0.93
6:54 PM	High Tide	1.68

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4, 5
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DCRM closed on Monday, Tuesday

The Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality would like to inform the public that the Division of Coastal Resources Management will be closed on Nov. 22 (Monday) and Nov. 23 (Tuesday) 2021, for a professional development workshop. As such, payments can be made at the CNMI Treasury Office. Regular office hours will resume on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021. ***(PR)***

US Passport Office to be on Tinian today

Representatives from the CNMI U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility will be on Tinian today, Nov. 19, 2021, from 8:3am to 4pm at the Department of Finance, Tinian to accept passport applications and answer any inquiries you may have. For additional information, contact the CNMI U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility at (670) 664-4760/61. ***(PR)***

SHEFA application submission deadline

Deadline to submit spring 2022 application only for not h new and returning applicants for Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is on Dec. 1, 2021 (Wednesday). No need to submit an application if you are an ongoing recipient. ***(PR)***

MVA Saipan's temporary office hours

The Marianas Visitors Authority Saipan office's temporary office hours through Dec. 31, 2021, are weekdays (except official holidays) from 8am to 12pm and from 1pm to 5pm. The office will be closed from 12pm to 1pm for lunch. For more information, call 664-3200 or email info@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Marianas Writers Movement to host write-in tomorrow

The Marianas Writers Movement is hosting a write-in tomorrow, Nov. 20, 2021, as part of National Novel Writing Month, more popularly known as NaNoWriMo, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library from 12:30pm to 3pm. We will have raffle prizes and word wars. Bring your laptop or notebook. We'll also take time off writing at 2pm for those who want to attend the book launch of former chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz, which is also happening at the JKPL. ***(PR)***

Ex-chief justice Dela Cruz to launch his book at JKPL

Former NMI Supreme Court chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz will be launching his book, *The Fundamental Issues Affecting the Northern Mariana Islands*, this Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, at 2pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Dela Cruz will also be signing copies of his book at the event.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP by/before Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, by contacting (670) 235-7315/7322/7323 (READ).

There is also a Zoom link available of the event at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88179656661?pwd=bGlvMEJSVEhWa1dJTjIxWkhxczd6QT0

Free webinar on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinar on Nov. 24, about responding to requests for proposals. The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP. The webinar will run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. The link to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar. To register visit www.guamptac.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-007

MANNED SECURITY GUARD SERVICES FOR CUC FACILITIES ON SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security Guard Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of $200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-22-007*, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on November 29, 2021**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on November 24 , 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC Power Generation Manager at email richard.cano@cucgov.org and John Mafnas, CUC Contracts officer via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in via email to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-22-004, Supply & Delivery of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation"* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building**, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 24, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 16, 2021**, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Generation Manager via email, richard.cano@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Majesty to host second free Thanksgiving meal distribution

For the second year in a row, Majesty Restaurant & Catering in Garapan will be distributing free Thanksgiving meals this year to help out families that need Thanksgiving meals.

Pre-packaged meals will be distributed between 4pm and 5pm, or while supplies last, on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 25 at the Majesty Restaurant location in Garapan. All meals are prepared in-house by Majesty's culinary team.

This activity is an extension of Majesty Restaurant's outreach activity in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. The restaurant has been distributing and delivering free meals on Sundays.

In a statement from Majesty Restaurant, it said that churches and other organizations in the CNMI provide thousands of meals to residents every year and 2021 is no exception despite COVID-19, though the pandemic has changed the way the Thanksgiving gatherings are held.

Majesty will strictly be enforcing social distancing and the mask mandate, and may resort to drive-thru style for this distribution.

Anyone wishing to refer a struggling person or low-income family in need of a Thanksgiving meal can email majesty.catering@tdisaipan.net. ***(PR)***

Saipan households being urged to avail of appliance rebate program

The CNMI Energy Division Office is pleased to inform residential homeowners on Saipan that unredeemed or expired appliance rebate vouchers under the CNMI Energizing Insular Communities Energy Efficient, Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program will be made available to assist other interested residential homeowners in replacing old and inefficient appliances with ones that qualified Energy-Efficient/Energy Star rated products such as refrigerators, clothes washers, split and window type air conditioner units for a limited time or until funds run out, whichever comes first.

Due to limited funding availability, rebate vouchers will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for Saipan residents only.

Appliances must replace existing models. Residents with newly constructed or renovated homes are eligible to apply for new purchases of qualified Energy Efficient or Energy Star rated appliances. Residents impacted by the devastations of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu are eligible, provided they have not already received similar assistance from local, federal, or private entities. Additional requirements or conditions may apply.

Rebate applications will be available for distribution to the public beginning Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, at the CNMI Energy Division Office located at House No. 1337, Ascencion Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Except for original applications issued by the Division of Energy, applications that are digitally copied or reproduced will not be accepted. ***(PR)***

'Health is the BEST Wealth' fair tomorrow in Kagman

The public is invited to attend the "Health is the BEST Wealth" fair scheduled for tomorrow, Nov. 20, 2021 from 8:30am to 12pm at the Kagman Community Center.

This is an event planned for CNMI residents of all ages, especially those living in the Precinct 5 community, to promote active healthy activities and provide access to a variety of exhibitors who will share outreach and educational topics about healthy choices, healthy lifestyles and prevention.

How will it work? Community participants will get a passport at registration. For every activity they participate in or exhibitor they visit, they will get a stamp. Once they go through at least seven of the exhibits and/or activities, they will get a giveaway that promotes healthy activity. There will also be a finale raffle with a grand prize of a Fitbit! All participants who complete their passport will automatically be included in the raffle. Finally, a healthy grab-and-go lunch will be provided for all participants, while supplies last.

The exhibitors and instructors at this event will be:

- CHCC Public Health
- CHCC MICAH Programs- Maternal, Infant, Child and Adolescent Health Programs
- CHCC Non-Communicable Disease Bureau
- Kagman Community Health Center, Inc
- Marianas Health
- PSS HALIGI AWARE Mental Health program
- NMI Basketball Federation
- Catherine Perry
- Dee Clayton
- John Gerald Pangelinan

Activities schedule:

- 8:30am: Taiji/Qi Gong with Catherine Perry
- 9:15am: Taiji/Qi Gong with Catherine Perry
- 10:30am: Zumba with Dee Clayton
- 11:15am: Basketball with NMI Basketball Federation and John Gerald Pangelinan

This event is sponsored by the offices of Precinct 5 representatives and has been approved by the COVID-19 Task Force. The COVID safety guidelines of the 3-W's will be enforced (Wash your hands, Wear a Mask, Watch your distance). ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857/58 | Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Website: www.cnmicasinocommission.com
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

*** November 24, 2021 ***

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Main Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. However, pursuant to Governor Torres' Executive Orders and Directives on the ongoing threat from the COVID-19 pandemic and limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via video conference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes: October 28, 2021

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS:
A. Report by the Chairman
B. Report by the Executive Director

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:
A. Casino Licensee – Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") – Updates:
1. Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"):
a) Status of IPI's request for extension of the IGF construction deadline per CLA Amendment #6.
b) Status of Tower Cranes 1, 5 and 6 at IPR
2. IPI Personnel Matters:
a) Status of Employee Payroll
b) Status of unpaid payroll & severance pay for employees already off-island
c) Others
B. IPI Financial Matters:
1. Status of IPI's FINAL Annual Audit Report (for the year ended December 31, 2020)
2. Status of the 2020 & 2021 Annual Exclusive Casino License Fees. Due Aug 12th each year
3. Status of the 2020 & 2021 Annual Casino Regulatory Fees. Due Oct 1st each year
C. Other Miscellaneous Matters:
1. Update on the Writ of Execution (Receivership) — auction of IPI's Gaming Assets

V. OLD BUSINESS:
A. House Local Bill No. 22-26 "To authorize, establish, and regulate casino gambling within the Third Senatorial District"

VI. NEW BUSINESS:
A. **Notification** of Issuance of Provisional Casino Gaming Vendor Licenses:
1. **Aristocrat Technologies Macau, Limited (Aristocrat).** Manufacturer and distributor of Electronic Gaming Machines. Provisional License expires on 1/31/2022.
B. **Recommended for Approval** for a two (2) year Regular Casino Gaming Vendor License.
1. **International Game Technology ("IGT").** Manufacturer and distributor of electronic gaming equipment and related products and services. Initial 2-year Regular Casino Gaming Vendor License will expire on 1/31/22.
2. **Konami Gaming, Inc.** Manufacturing, development, sales, installation and service of gaming equipment and custom Casino Management Systems. Initial 2-year Regular Casino Gaming Vendor License will expire on 1/31/22.
3. **Gaming Laboratories International, LLC ("GLI").** Development of electronic gaming machine standards and related gaming service provider. Initial 2-year Regular Casino Gaming Vendor License will expire on 1/31/22.
4. **BMM Australia Pty, Ltd** (dba: Testlabs). Testing of Computer and Gaming Systems. Initial 2-year Regular Casino Gaming Vendor License will expire on 11/28/2021.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
A. Consult with Legal Counsel
B. Report by the CCC Divisions (Compliance, Audit and Enforcement)
C. CCC Personnel Matters

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
The Commission reserves the right to amend this Agenda and take action on the amended Agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Chairman

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
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www.mymarianas.com

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
a. Finance Committee
i. Fund Status Report
b. CNMI TRIP Program
i. Korea
ii. Japan
4) **Executive Session**
5) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
6) **Adjournment**

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of November 19, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Saipan Horse Course, LLC	10/25/2021 SS-2022-002	Horse Tour Operation & Trail	Kagman, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 11/18/2021
2. National Parks Service	10/26/2021 SW-2022-003	Construction of Asphaltic Concrete Pavement & Sidewalks (Micro Beach Loop)	Garapan, Saipan	Wetland	Approved* 11/10/2021
3. Tan Holdings Corporation	11/08/2021 S-2022-004	Road Construction of the Unfinished Improvements of Corporal Derence Jack Road	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 11/18/2021
4. Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Crowne Plaza Saipan	11/12/2021 SSm-2022-005	Renovation of Existing Landscaping & Patio Paving	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
5. Marianas Visitors Authority	11/18/2021 SSm-2022-006	18th Annual Christmas in the Marianas	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
6. Noriko Akari Baidyu dba Sakura Saipan	11/18/2021 SLR-2022-007	SCUBA Diving Tour/Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Business

Enterprise goes greener

Rent-a-car company Enterprise Saipan has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

In a statement yesterday, the company said this investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also "demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions."

Enterprise Saipan said it also upholds its commitment "to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through the implementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge."

The pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points. ***(PR)***

AK Toyota showcases GCC's hybrid engine

MANGILAO, Guam—The Guam Community College has loaned Atkins Kroll Inc. Toyota Guam their working hybrid engine model to display in their Tamuning showroom.

The partnership between GCC and Atkins Kroll is an effort to educate potential car owners about the benefits of owning a hybrid vehicle and doing their part to reduce carbon emissions. The benefits of owning a hybrid vehicle include improved fuel efficiency, less pollution when compared to conventional vehicles, and a high resale value.

The working hybrid engine model is used by GCC's Automotive Service Technology Department to teach the basics mechanics of a hybrid engine, as compared to a fuel burning car engine. The Hybrid Engine Program will train students to assess, troubleshoot, and repair hybrid vehicles. Classes are being finalized and will be integral to the GCC Automotive Services Technology Department curriculum soon.

Ernie Galito, Atkins Kroll Inc. Business Development director, said they are excited to continue supporting GCC in attracting future technical students in the fields of automotive service, maintenance, and repair of hybrid electric vehicles. "Some of our Toyota technicians and service managers are former students of GCC's automotive program," he said.

"Offering Hybrid Engine mechanics as part of GCC's Automotive Services Technology program had been in development for a few years, and we are excited to be offering these courses very soon," said GCC president Dr. Mary Okada. "This program is integral to GCC's commitment to offer relevant career opportunities in developing technologies, and to GCC's commitment to a sustainable future for our island and region."

Jobs in the electric vehicles industry show great potential for new employment opportunities and employment is expected to grow in all of the major sectors of the industry. Additionally, jobs will cover a wide variety of occupations. The growth of the electric vehicles industry is evident by the increasing number of electric vehicles purchased over the past decade, as well as new models being introduced by numerous manufacturers. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-018

Opening Date: November 12, 2021
Closing Date: November 25, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Meter Reader**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Billing & Collections**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, (plus Hazardous pay) Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Three(3)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Required to work in the field obtaining utility meter readings for electric and water consumption meters, deep well or outflow meters and other similar devices and entering data in hand-held computers or devices.
- Perform work orders for customer service verifications and investigations. Reports findings and recommends solutions and updates customer accounts.
- Performs research on account discrepancies or unusual meter readings and consumption. Reports irregularities or reasons for fluctuations.
- Prepares reports of findings, deficiencies and recommendations to assist in investigations and billing resolutions as needed.
- Inspects, repairs, replaces or disconnects utility meters and equipment and services.
- Assigns routing numbers for customer locations.
- Monitors meters for damaged or unauthorized connections and tampering.
- Assist in reviewing cycles, work orders, and readings in preparation of bill processing.
- Assist in the processing and printing of customer bills and delivery of bills and notices.
- Assist other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Assist other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Operates and maintains use of government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure they are in proper working order and recommends service and maintenance of vehicles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.
Skills in: Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 025

Opening Date: November 15, 2021
Closing Date: November 29, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Warehouse Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**CFO/Warehouse**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,511.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee.

Duties:

- The Warehouse Assistant assists with physical inventories of stock, materials and supplies; takes material counts and/or verifies counts.
- Prepares, packs, and delivers materials and supplies; receives and responds to division and department material needs and requests.
- Loads and unloads materials and supplies; assists with offloading containers and materials; operates forklift as needed.
- Verifies quantities and quality of materials received; prepares receiving documents and reports; routes and delivers paperwork.
- Maintains order and in worksites and warehouse areas; stocks and restocks inventory materials in designated bin locations; may assist in determining whether materials are scrapped or salvaged.
- Prepares and issues materials for air, sea or postal delivery; reviews pick lists and verifies quantities and material accuracy.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Preparing, packing, issuing and delivering materials and supplies; Verifying material quantities and quality; Providing attention to detail; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:

- ○ Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

Physical Demands:

- ○ Occasional lifting of object; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 026

Opening Date: November 15, 2021
Closing Date: November 29, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant Lineperson**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power T & D**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Power T&D Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Servicing equipment by disassembling, assembling, cleaning and calibrating.
- Assisting with equipment/vehicle inspections.
- Servicing and preparing oil filters.
- Responding to customer calls.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:

- ○ Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Nation

White House: 10% of kids have been vaccinated in first 2 weeks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House says about 10% of eligible kids aged 5 to 11 have received a dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine since its approval for their age group two weeks ago.

At least 2.6 million kids have received a shot, White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients said Wednesday, with 1.7 million doses administered in the last week alone, roughly double the pace of the first week after approval. It's more than three times faster than the rate adults were vaccinated at the start of the nation's vaccination campaign 11 months ago.

AP

First lady Jill Biden hands out stickers to recently vaccinated children during a visit to a pediatric COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Children's National Hospital's THEARC, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021, in Washington.

Zients said there are now 30,000 locations across for kids to get a shot, up from 20,000 last week, and that the administration expects the pace of pediatric shots to pick up in the coming days.

Kids who get their first vaccine dose by the end of this week will be fully vaccinated by Christmas, assuming they get their second shot three weeks after the first one.

State-by-state breakdowns of doses given to the age group haven't been released by the White House or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but figures shared by states show the pace varies. About 11-12% of children in that age group have received their first doses in Colorado, Utah and Illinois, but the pace is much slower in places like Idaho (5%), Tennessee (5%) and Wyoming (4%), three states that have some of the lowest rates of vaccination for older groups.

'OD deaths topped 100,000 in one year'

NEW YORK (AP)—An estimated 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in one year, a never-before-seen milestone that health officials say is tied to the COVID-19 pandemic and a more dangerous drug supply.

Overdose deaths have been rising for more than two decades, accelerated in the past two years and, according to new data posted Wednesday, jumped nearly 30% in the latest year.

President Joe Biden called it "a tragic milestone" in a statement, as administration officials pressed Congress to devote billions of dollars more to address the problem.

"This is unacceptable and it requires an unprecedented response," said Dr. Rahul Gupta, director of National Drug Control Policy.

Experts believe the top drivers of overdose deaths are the growing prevalence of deadly fentanyl in the illicit drug supply and the COVID-19 pandemic, which left many drug users socially isolated and unable to get treatment or other support.

The number is "devastating," said Katherine Keyes, a Columbia University expert on drug abuse issues. "It's a magnitude of overdose death that we haven't seen in this country."

Drug overdoses now surpass deaths from car crashes, guns and even flu and pneumonia. The total is close to that for diabetes, the nation's No. 7 cause of death.

Drawing from the latest available death certificate data, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 100,300 Americans died of drug overdoses from May 2020 to April 2021. It's not an official count. It can take many months for death investigations involving drug fatalities to become final, so the agency made the estimate based on 98,000 reports it has received so far.

The CDC previously reported there were about 93,000 overdose deaths in 2020, the highest number recorded in a calendar year. Robert Anderson, the CDC's chief of mortality statistics, said the 2021 tally is likely to surpass 100,000.

Pilot death is 2nd amid late season wildfires in Rockies

DENVER (AP)—Authorities on Wednesday were investigating the death of a pilot who crashed while fighting a wildfire near Rocky Mountain National Park at night, the second person to die amid wind-driven, late season wildfires in the Rockies this week.

The pilot of the single-engine air tanker was found dead Tuesday night south of Estes Park about three hours after authorities received reports of a crash, the Larimer County Sheriff's Office said. The pilot was the only person on board, it said.

KUSA-TV reported that it spoke to the pilot who died before he took off, saying that he was excited for the night time flight, which he said was the culmination of about five years of hard work.

The pilot's name has not been released by the coroner's office but the company he worked for and the state's firefighting agency identified him as Marc Thor Olson. The company, CO Fire Aviation, said Olson was an Army and Air Force veteran with 42 years of flight experience.

The sheriff's office hired the plane to fight the fire because of the fire's potential to spread quickly in dry, windy conditions and because the terrain made it too dangerous to have firefighters fight it on the ground, it said in a statement. The plane was able to drop a load of water on the fire before the pilot reported turbulent conditions on its second flight over the fire about an hour later, according to the sheriff's office. Shortly after, crews heard the plane crash, it said.

"Recent advances in technology to achieve night air operations already in use in other states has proven to be an effective tactic to help prevent medium-sized fires from exploding and making large runs like we saw last year," the office said, noting its experience with 2020's massive Cameron Peak Fire, which burned over 313 square miles (811 square kilometers).

World

Hundreds missing in Burkina Faso amid extremist violence

FADA N'GOURMA, Burkina Faso (AP)—The last time Polenli Combary spoke to her son on the phone she prayed for God to bless him. Shortly after, she called back but the line was dead.

Her 34-year-old son was returning a truck used to move the family's belongings from their village in eastern Burkina Faso after jihadis forced everyone to leave. He disappeared in March.

"We will keep searching ... I'm just praying to God to have him back," said Combary, 53, sitting despondently in the eastern city of Fada N'Gourma where she now lives.

Islamic extremist violence is ravaging Burkina Faso, killing thousands and displacing more than 1 million people.

And people are going missing. Reports of missing relatives quadrupled from 104 to 407 between 2019 and 2020, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which defines a missing person as someone whose whereabouts cannot be accounted for and requires state intervention.

"With the conflict, you have more sudden movements of people, you have more incidents which can lead to separation and disappearance," said Marina Fakhouri, head of protection with the ICRC in Burkina Faso. "Certainly we are concerned also by the number of families who are coming to us directly to signal that they have a missing relative and need support."

People have previously gone missing in the West African nation due to migration, floods or shocks from climate change, but the magnitude has increased because of the violence, she said.

Tracing people during a conflict and in a context of mass displacement is challenging, can cause tensions within families and communities and psychological and physical distress. One month after her son disappeared, Combary's husband died of a heart attack due to the shock, she said.

While some families blame the jihadis for the disappearances of their loved ones, many others point to the security forces as the main perpetrators. During a trip to Fada N'Gourma in October and speaking to people in the Sahel province by phone, three families, including Combary's, told The Associated Press they suspect the army is responsible for their missing relatives.

The military has been accused by rights groups of extrajudicial killings and targeting people deemed to be associated with the jihadis. About 70% of families reporting people missing allege it is linked to the security forces, said Daouda Diallo, executive secretary for the Collective Against Impunity and Stigmatization of Communities, a civil society group.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN envoy: Afghanistan on brink of `humanitarian catastrophe'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Afghanistan is "on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe" and its collapsing economy is heightening the risk of extremism, the U.N.'s special representative for the country warned Wednesday. Deborah Lyons said the United Nations predicts that 60% of Afghanistan's 38 million people face crisis levels of hunger in a food emergency that will likely worsen over the winter. She said the country's GDP is estimated to have contracted by 40%.But she told the U.N. Security Council that a humanitarian catastrophe "is preventable," saying the main cause is financial sanctions on the Taliban, who took over the country Aug. 15. Sanctions "have paralyzed the banking system, affecting every aspect of the economy," Lyons said. The Afghanistan central bank's $9 billion in reserves, most of which is held in the United States, were frozen after the collapse of the former government. Afghanistan was also slated to access about $450 million on Aug. 23 from the International Monetary Fund, but the IMF blocked the release because of a "lack of clarity" about a new government.

Belarus brings some migrants in from cold at Polish border

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Hundreds of migrants who were camped in the cold on the Poland-Belarus border have been moved to a nearby warehouse in Belarusian territory, reports said Wednesday, with some still harboring hopes of entering the European Union. The move came a day after a melee broke out in the border crisis, with migrants throwing stones at Polish forces massed on their side of the razor-wire fence, injuring 12, and they responded with water cannons and tear gas. Warsaw accused Belarusian forces of instigating the conflict, while the government in Minsk denounced Poland's "violent actions." The migrants, mostly from the Middle East, have been stuck at the border since Nov. 8. Most are fleeing conflict or despair at home and want to reach Germany or other western European countries.

State of emergency in British Columbia; more deaths expected

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—The Canadian Pacific coast province of British Columbia declared a state of emergency Wednesday following floods and mudslides caused by extremely heavy rainfall, and officials said they expected to find more dead. Every major route between the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, where Canada's third largest city of Vancouver is, and the interior of the province has been cut by washouts, flooding or landslides following record-breaking rain across southern British Columbia between Saturday and Monday. The body of a woman was recovered from one of the mudslides late Monday. "Torrential rains have led to terrible flooding that has disrupted the lives and taken lives of people across B.C. I want people to know that the federal government has been engaging with the local authorities," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in Washington. "We're sending resources like the Canadian Armed Forces to support people but also we'll be there for the cleanup and the rebuilding after impacts of these extreme weather events."

Off the Wall

German Shepherd Gunther VI sits by the pool at a house formally owned by pop star Madonna, Monday, Nov. 15, 2021, in Miami. AP

Millionaire dog selling Miami villa once owned by Madonna

By KELLI KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunther the German shepherd spent a recent morning playing with his tennis ball, rolling in the grass, slobbering a little and napping a lot. Later, he had a "meeting" with the real estate agents selling his Miami mansion that his handlers bought from Madonna.

And of course Gunther was wearing his very best faux diamond dog collar for the meeting—his real gold collar is back at his main home in Tuscany. As crazy as it sounds even by Florida's standards, Gunther VI inherited his vast fortune, including the eight-bedroom waterfront home once owned by the "Material Girl" singer, from his grandfather Gunther IV. At least that's what the handlers who manage the estate say.

The Tuscan-style villa with views of Biscayne Bay went on sale Wednesday for $31.75 million—a whopping markup from the purchase two decades ago from the pop star for $7.5 million. The home also boasts a gilded framed portrait of Gunther IV over the living room fireplace.

The dog's lineage dates back decades to when Gunther III inherited a multimillion-dollar trust from late owner German countess Karlotta Liebenstein when she died in 1992. Since then, a group of handlers have helped maintain a jet-setting lifestyle for a succession of dogs. There are trips to the Milan and the Bahamas, where the latest Gunther recently dined out at restaurants every evening—his handlers like to make sure he's well socialized.

A chef cooks his breakfast each morning made of the finest meat, fresh vegetables and rice. Sometimes he enjoys caviar, but there's never any kibble in sight. He travels by private jet, works on obedience skills daily with his trainer and sleeps in a lavish round, red velvet bed overlooking the bay.

"He lives in Madonna's former master bedroom," said real estate agent Ruthie Assouline who nabbed the listing with her husband Ethan for the 1.2-acre (0.5 hectare) property in a row of a half-dozen waterfront homes next to a public county park and on the same street where Sylvester Stallone once lived.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Escape attempt with bedsheets thwarted at Paris prison

PARIS (AP)—French prison guards thwarted an escape attempt from the Paris region's second-largest jail on Sunday, with French media identifying the would-be escapee as a suspected Islamic State sympathizer who dug a hole in the wall of her cell and rappelled out on knotted sheets. The Justice Ministry said the prisoner was caught Sunday morning. Guards immediately inspected all of the women's cells at the Fresnes prison to ensure that other prisoners were accounted for, and an investigation was opened, the ministry said. Broadcaster France Info said the detainee was jailed after she travelled to Syria to join the Islamic State group. It said motion detectors alerted guards that she had escaped from her cell, after she climbed down on bedsheets through a hole.

Roadrunner, going faster, ends up in Maine after hitchhike

FREEDOM, Maine (AP)—A wayward roadrunner is on the mend in Maine after traveling across the country in a moving van. The greater roadrunner, a species native to Southwestern states, hitched a ride in the storage area of a moving van from Las Vegas to Westbrook, Maine. Volunteers took the bird to Avian Haven, a bird rehabilitation facility in Maine. Avian Haven representatives said that they took the call about the bird Nov. 13 and that it continued to rest Tuesday. They said in a Facebook post that the bird was in "remarkably good shape" for having been stuck in a van for four days but might have lost weight during the journey. The center is looking at ways to return the roadrunner to Nevada once it is healthy enough, said Diane Winn, Avian Haven's executive director. The center has created a special habitat for the bird that is warmer than its typical outdoor areas while also being sufficiently roomy, the group said.

Deer runs into hospital, up escalator; later is euthanized

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A deer ran through the front door of a Louisiana hospital and climbed up an escalator Monday before it was captured and later euthanized because of injuries. News outlets reported that surveillance video showed the animal bounding into Our Lady of the Lake Hospital in Baton Rouge through an open door and stumbling on the slippery floor as stunned workers and visitors watched from a few feet away. The deer regained its footing enough to climb up the down escalator and reach the second floor, where it was finally corralled and held down by several people, including a law enforcement officer and another person in scrubs. The deer was loaded on a hospital bed that was rolled outside to a truck from the The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Department. The animal had to be euthanized because of injuries, the agency said, adding there were indications it may have been struck by a vehicle before entering the building.

Science & Technology

Some users of Windows 11 Home can avoid unwanted encryption

TECH Q&A
By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

The good news about Windows 11 automatic encryption is that at least some readers can avoid the problem. In the last two columns, I've warned that Microsoft had set Windows 11 Home and Pro operating systems to automatically encrypt consumer data. I said that was dangerous because if a PC were disabled with encryption on, a repair shop would be unable to copy its data to another PC unless the consumer could produce an "encryption key" that Microsoft had not adequately explained. As a result, I suggested that consumers turn off automatic encryption on their newly downloaded copies of Windows 11.

But a few readers who had recently downloaded Windows 11 Home said they were surprised to find that their PCs had not automatically encrypted their data, even though mine did.

What's going on? The readers have most likely discovered a limitation of some PCs—they can't encrypt data using Windows 11 Home.

How do you find out if you have one of those non-encrypting PCs? Download Windows 11 Home, open Settings and click "privacy & security" on the left side of the screen. If you can't find "device encryption" on the right side of the screen, your PC can't encrypt data.

Why can't those PCs encrypt data? It has to do with an apparently unrelated PC feature called "sleep mode." Sleep mode allows an idle computer to operate on minimal electrical power. The PC appears to be off, but upon reawakening it turns on its screen and shows the same open applications as before.

This reawakening is relatively fast, but it's not instantaneous. So, PC makers added a new feature called Modern Standby that makes a PC reawaken almost instantly, just as smartphones do. It does that by keeping some PC activities running during "sleep."

But, as it turns out, Modern Standby is directly linked to "device encryption" in Windows 11 Home (see tinyurl.com/tkvc8dms). If your PC doesn't have Modern Standby, device encryption won't work. (Windows 11 Pro uses a different form of encryption called BitLocker, and it works even if you don't have Modern Standby.)

How many consumers will avoid automatic data encryption because of this issue? It's hard to tell because we don't know what percentage of PCs have Modern Standby. All we can say with certainty is that some readers will avoid Windows 11 encryption.

However, anyone who downloads Windows 11 Home or Pro still needs to be on the lookout for unwanted automatic encryption. And, as more people buy new PCs that have Modern Standby, the unwanted encryption problem will become more widespread.

Thanks to the readers who helped with this column, including Bob Julian of Shoreview, Minnesota, Lynne LeFevre of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and William Laine of Menomonie, Wisconsin.

Q: For several weeks my Google Chrome browser has reduced its size to about one-quarter of my screen. I can make it full size by clicking the maximize icon at upper right, but sooner or later it goes back to quarter-screen size. What can I do?

A: Google advises you to "reset" the Chrome browser. Open the menu by clicking the three-dot icon at the upper right of the Chrome window and click on Settings. On the left side of the screen click "advanced," and at the bottom left of the screen click "reset and clean up." Click "restore settings to their original defaults." The browser will retain your bookmarks and passwords.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†RODICO VIDAL

BORN ON JULY 20, 1941
CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE ON NOVEMBER 10, 2021

In his new life, he now joins his:
Wife: †Berlita P. Vidal
Mother: †Carmen Vidal
Father: †Enteng Vidal
Brother: †Nestor Vidal

He will forever be missed by his:
2nd Wife: Amelita Vidal
Children: Noreta V. Pamintuan / Emanuel D. Pamintuan
Nenita P. Vidal
Leah P. Vidal
Eleanor P. Vidal
Alyssa P. Vidal
Ryan P. Vidal
Grandchildren:
Aaron Paul V. Pamintuan
Noemy Grace V. Pamintuan
Manuel V. Pamintuan
Nicholas V. Grdina
Tyler V. Grdina
Bryant Vidal Dy
Ivan Vidal
Bobby Vidal
Ivy Vidal
Kate Vidal
Step son: John Sario
Step daughter: Jewel Sario

On November 20, 2021 at 7:00 A.M., his remains will be escorted by Cabrera Funeral Homes to Mount Carmel Cathedral. 7:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. will be the final viewing. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 A.M. with interment services to follow immediately at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be laid to peaceful rest.

THE FAMILY

Life & Style

Rapper Young Dolph fatally shot at Tennessee cookie shop

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Rapper Young Dolph, widely admired in the hip-hop community for his authenticity and fierce independence, was shot and killed Wednesday at a cookie shop in his hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, authorities said.

Police tweeted that they had no information to release about a possible suspect in the shooting, which took place at Makeda's Cookies near Memphis International Airport.

"The tragic shooting death of rap artist Young Dolph serves as another reminder of the pain that violent crime brings with it," Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland said in a statement.

Dolph

The Daily Memphian newspaper reported that Young Dolph's cousin, Mareno Myers, said the 36-year-old rapper had been in town since Monday visiting an aunt who has cancer and was also giving out Thanksgiving turkeys.

"He was inside (Makeda's), and somebody just rolled up on him and took his life," Myers said.

Just last week, the cookie shop posted a video on Instagram of the rapper promoting the store's cookies, saying he returns to the store whenever he is in Memphis.

Like the Los Angeles rapper Nipsey Hussle, who was killed in 2019, Young Dolph pursued an independent approach to the music business. His Paper Route Empire label retained control over his music. "I just got another vision for it—strictly 100 percent ownership," he said in 2018 mini-documentary co-produced by his label, titled "Turned Dirt Into Diamonds." "A lot of people, they can't see what I see."

"God bless Dolph," tweeted Chance the Rapper. "Real independent Memphis rapper born in chicago. loved by millions of ppl."

Born in Chicago as Adolph Thornton Jr., he moved to Memphis when he was 2, according to The Commercial Appeal. He said in the documentary that he'd been raised by his grandmother and tried to help his parents "clean their life up" once he found success.

He released numerous mixtapes, starting with 2008's "Paper Route Campaign," and multiple studio albums, including his 2016 debut "King of Memphis." He also collaborated on other mixtapes and albums with fellow rappers Key Glock, Megan Thee Stallion, T.I., Gucci Mane, 2 Chainz and others.

Young Dolph had three albums reach the top 10 on the Billboard 200, with 2020's "Rich Slave" peaking at No. 4.

In his music, Young Dolph rapped about being a drug dealer and life on the streets in Memphis. He recently performed at a concert at the University of Memphis and has performed during the halftime of a Memphis Grizzlies game.

Jason Mott, Tiya Miles win National Book Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Jason Mott's "Hell of a Book," a surreal meta-narrative about an author's promotional tour and his haunted past and present, has won the National Book Award for fiction—a plot twist Mott did not imagine for himself.

"Hell of a Book" is a satirical take on a Black writer's adventures on the road for a promotional tour—Mott himself had his share of experiences while talking up such previous works as his debut novel "The Returned"—and a stark and disorienting tale of racial violence and identity, drawing on recent headlines and the author's childhood.

"I would like to dedicate this award to all the other mad kids, to all the outsiders, the weirdos, the bullied, the ones so strange they had no choice but to be misunderstood by the world and those around them," Mott, 43, said in his acceptance speech.

He also cited "the ones who, in spite of this, refuse to outgrow their imagination, refuse to abandon their dreams, refuse to deny, diminish their identity, or their truths, or their loves—unlike so many others."

Tiya Miles' "All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake" was the winner for nonfiction.

Malinda Lo's "Last Night at the Telegraph Club"—a story of same-sex, cross-cultural love set in the 1950s—won for young people's literature.

The poetry prize was awarded to Martín Espada's "Floaters," and best translation went to Elisa Shua Dusapin's "Winter in Sokcho," translated from the French by Aneesa Abbas Higgins.

Winners in the competitive categories Wednesday night each receive $10,000.

Two honorary prizes were presented: Author-playwright Karen Tei Yamashita received a lifetime achievement medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, and author-librarian-NPR commentator Nancy Pearl was given the Literarian Award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community.

Frida Kahlo self-portrait sells for record $35M at auction

NEW YORK (AP)—A Frida Kahlo self-portrait that shows the artist with the face of her husband, Diego Rivera, in the middle of her forehead, sold at Sotheby's in New York on Tuesday for $34.9 million, an auction record for a work by a Latin American artist.

The 1949 painting, "Diego and I," depicts Kahlo's tumultuous relationship with Rivera, the Mexican muralist who was far better known than she was during their lifetimes but whose fame has been eclipsed by hers in recent years.

A Rivera painting had been the previous record-holder for highest auction price for a Latin American artist's work—$9.8 million in 2018.

Anna Di Stasi, Sotheby's director of Latin American art, said "Diego and I" was painted in the same year that Rivera started an affair with her friend, the film star Maria Félix. Di Stasi described the work as "a painted summary of all of Kahlo's passion and pain, a tour de force of the raw emotive power of the artist at the peak of her abilities."

Lawsuit: Baldwin had no reason to fire in 'Rust' shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawsuit filed Wednesday alleges that Alec Baldwin recklessly fired a gun when it wasn't called for in the script when he shot and killed cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and injured director Joel Souza on the New Mexico set of the film "Rust."

"There was nothing in the script about the gun being discharged by DEFENDANT BALDWIN or by any other person," the lawsuit from script supervisor Mamie Mitchell says.

Baldwin

The lawsuit is the second to stem from the shooting, with many more expected.

Like last week's from head of lighting Serge Svetnoy, it was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court and names many defendants including Baldwin, who was both star and a producer; David Halls, the assistant director who handed Baldwin the gun; and Hannah Gutierrez Reed, who was in charge of weapons on the set.

Mitchell's lawsuit focuses mainly on Baldwin's actions. It said she was standing next to Hutchins and within 4 feet (1.22 meters) of the actor, and was stunned when he fired the gun inside the tiny church on Bonanza Creek Ranch on Oct. 21.

According to discussions before the scene was filmed, it called for three tight shots of Baldwin: One on his eyes, one on a blood stain on his shoulder, and one on his torso as he pulled the gun from a holster, the lawsuit says.

There was no call for Baldwin to point the gun toward Hutchins and Souza, nor to fire it, the lawsuit says.

Amazon-sponsored artwork that 'learns' debuts at Smithsonian

WASHINGTON (AP)—The artificial intelligence at the heart of a new art exhibit, "me + you," does not judge you necessarily, but it does analyze and interpret what you have to say.

Sponsored by Amazon Web Services, the sculpture by artist Suchi Reddy listens to what you have to say about the future and renders your sentiment in a display of colored lights and patterns.

The artwork is a centerpiece of a new exhibit at the Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building, which is opening to the public for the first time in 20 years. The exhibition, called Futures, opens Nov. 20.

Son fears father may be victim of online scams

DEAR ABBY: My parents separated nearly 20 years ago. My father, who is retired, has been living alone for many years. I suspect he gets scammed for money on the internet. I know for sure it has happened twice. I have talked to him about it more than once. He routinely forwards me emails to check if they are legitimate. However, I think he falls for romance scams and is too embarrassed to tell me about it. He isn't going to be unable to pay his bills or go into debt, but I'm still concerned. Should I do more, even though it may be very uncomfortable for us both?

CONCERNED SON IN NOVA SCOTIA

DEAR SON: If you think your father has fallen for romance scams in the past, you should have more discussions with him about how prevalent they are and what to watch out for. Do not personalize it if you think it might embarrass him, but do mention the danger of sending money to someone he might know only online. Do some research. If you think this is what may be happening, forward your findings to him after the discussion.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 60 years old and married. Every time we see my wife's family, her parents pressure me to buy a car. (Our old one got totaled.) We don't leave the house often except for exercise, and our daughter delivers our groceries to us.

Because I got sick of the nagging, I purchased a 9-year-old vehicle. When I brought it home, my wife began griping incessantly about my choice. She didn't like it and wanted to return it, so I did.

The next time we saw her parents, we told them we didn't need a car and we're happy without one. It made them very upset. Every time we have seen them since, they continue to pester me about it. What should I do about this infuriating situation?

NO CAR IN ALABAMA

DEAR NO CAR: Understand that your in-laws probably mean well, but do not allow yourself to be dragged into an argument about your decision. Tell them you do not wish to discuss it further and, if they persist, see them less often—much less often.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a wonderful neighbor who loves to give me beautifully arranged bouquets of flowers. The problem is, although I appreciate her very much, I do not enjoy receiving flowers because I don't like seeing them die. My husband knows this. Also, I don't have enough room for all the vases. I'm not unappreciative, but I don't know how to let her know I no longer want flowers as gifts. I would like to be as tactful as possible without hurting her feelings. Please help.

OVERWHELMED IN ARIZONA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

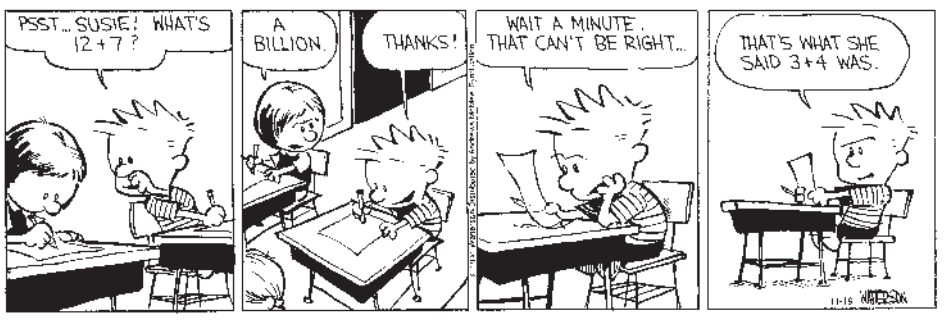
DEAR OVERWHELMED: Invite your generous neighbor to lunch and give her a small gift. (Candy, perhaps.) During the lunch thank her for her kindness and praise her for her flower arranging talent, but add that WATCHING THEM DIE DEPRESSES YOU, and to please stop. Ask if she would like you to return her vases you have collected, and if she says yes, have them boxed and ready to give her after the lunch. If she refuses your offer, find out if a neighborhood florist can use them. If not, recycle or toss them.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

CHEERS TO THE NEWEST PUBLISHED AUTHOR IN THE HOUSE!
THANKS!
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU, ADAM.
SERIOUSLY? I JUST NAPPED AND DRANK COFFEE AND NAPPED SOME MORE.
SEE? YOU SHOWED ME WHAT NOT TO DO.
LOOK AT ME! I'M A MENTOR!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pesto herb
6 Parched
9 Vitamin stat
12 Bakery lure
13 Fair hirer, in ads
14 Poetic dusk
15 "Narnia" lion
16 Literary passage
18 Dwell in
20 French 101 verb
21 "Diamonds" singer
23 Before
24 All in — work
25 Letter extras (Abbr.)
27 Group of trees
29 Shrewd
31 Bribe of a sort
35 Doppler device
37 Wicked
38 Fleet of foot
41 Former Mideast org.
43 Tolkien creature
44 Bonn article
45 More wan
47 Bend, as light
49 Cafeteria stack
52 — -de-France
53 Bee follower
54 Big foil maker
55 New Deal pres.
56 QVC alternative
57 Arrangement

DOWN
1 Sheepish remark
2 "— Poetica"
3 One-person show
4 Apple since 1998
5 Jousting weapon
6 More profound
7 Popular theater name
8 However
9 Lasso
10 Belittle
11 Poker payments
17 Night flight
19 Egged on
21 Yacht spot
22 — and outs
24 Director DuVernay
26 Wave rider
28 TV mogul Winfrey
30 Make lace
32 Emote
33 — -Manuel Miranda
34 Flight stat
36 "Persuasion" author
38 Helvetica lack
39 Brandish
40 Deduce
42 Coolidge and Moreno
45 Experts
46 Mystery writer Gardner
48 German cry
50 Thee
51 Tree fluid

Solution time: 25 mins.

R	E	E	F		C	A	L		S	C	T	S
A	L	A	I		O	D	E		P	O	L	'
P	O	R	T		N	E	A		I	N	G	A
'	I	P	T	O	L		D	I	G	E	S	'
			E	M	P			C	O	G		
G	O	A	D		A	B	L	U	T	I	O	N
	N	N			S	A	O			R	O	B
N	O	'	O	F	T	E	N		B	L	O	C
		I	C	I			G	R	E			
L	A	G	E	P	S		G	E	O	R	G	E
E	C	O	L		A	G	O		W	E	A	R
A	R	N	O		V	O	N		N	A	G	S
F	E	E	T		E	V	E		S	P	A	'

Yesterday's answer 11-19

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12					■	13			■	14		
15					■	16			17			
■	■	18			19			■	20			
21	22		■	23				24				
25			26	■	27		28			■	■	■
29				30		■	31			32	33	34
■	■	■	35			36		■	37			
38	39	40			■	41		42	■	43		
44				■	45				46		■	■
47				48			■	49			50	51
52			■	53				54				
55			■	56			■	57				

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jodie Foster, 59; Meg Ryan, 60; Allison Janney, 62; Ann Curry, 65.

Happy Birthday: Engage in something that makes you feel alive. Participate in life, love and achieving the happiness you deserve. Put an end to what's no longer of importance or value to you. Be aggressive and innovative moving forward, and you'll discover you have something to offer that you enjoy doing. Aim for peace of mind, explore possibilities, and embrace love and romance. Your numbers are 7, 13, 21, 24, 33, 38, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Budget for something that will make your life easier. Refuse to let anyone talk you into a shared expense that will add to your debt and cause worry. Take good care of your health, and do whatever it takes to ease stress. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Concentrate on achieving your goal, and don't stop until you get satisfactory results. Refuse to give in to someone's manipulative rhetoric. Put responsibilities first, and enjoy downtime with someone who lifts your spirits. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Set up a plan and follow it through to completion. How you do things will be a lesson for onlookers. Refuse to let anyone interfere or take over. Embrace life wholeheartedly, and opportunities will unfold. Choose stability over emotional chaos. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A creative outlet will attract attention. Take a step in a direction that allows you to express yourself openly and offers you a chance to explore possibilities. Turn something you love to do into a lucrative pastime. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Reach out to someone who gets you. Having supportive people around you will encourage putting an end to situations that are dragging you down. Finish what you start, and move on to the next phase of your plans. Eliminate unnecessary expenses. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Accept a leadership position, and you'll get things done. Your ability to take on opposition using common-sense integrity and offer a backup plan will raise your profile. Make plans with someone you love, and enjoy planning for something that excites you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Pay attention to what things cost before spending on something you don't need. Focus more on personal improvement, health and fitness. Enjoy the company of someone who isn't likely to coax you into overspending or being indulgent. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Look at the possibilities, and do something that excites you. It's your responsibility to make things happen, so stop waiting and start doing. Reach out to a friend, relative or peer and share your thoughts. Their reaction will confirm your beliefs. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep your emotions hidden. Be secretive about your plans until you have everything in place. Don't let anyone use emotional manipulation to throw you off track. Trust your instincts, and take the path that feels comfortable, doable and within your budget. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let temptation take over. Size up situations, and be accountable for what you say and do. How you respond to others will determine what you get in return. Know when to put pressure on someone and when to back away. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Follow through with your plans, and don't argue a moot point. Don't get involved in joint ventures or shared expenses. Focus on what you know and do best, and keep your life simple, plans doable and costs affordable. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Chat all you like, but stick to the truth. If you exaggerate or color a situation, someone will speak up and make you look bad. Focus more on what you can do for others instead of trying to outmaneuver them. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, energetic and hardworking. You are imaginative and persistent.

✪ ***star:*** *Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes.* ✪✪ ***stars:*** *You can accomplish, but don't rely on others.* ✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Focus and you'll reach your goals.* ✪✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Aim high; start new projects.* ✪✪✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4				5				
			9			3		8
	8				1		9	
					6	7		
		1		7		8		
		9	8					
	7		3				6	
1		6			5			
				4				3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	3	4	1	9	8	5	2
9	5	8	2	3	6	4	1	7
4	1	2	8	7	5	6	3	9
3	6	5	1	4	2	7	9	8
7	9	4	5	8	3	1	2	6
2	8	1	6	9	7	3	4	5
5	4	6	7	2	1	9	8	3
1	2	9	3	6	8	5	7	4
8	3	7	9	5	4	2	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

COLIN POWELL (1937-2021) Solution: 10 letters

N	L	U	N	I	T	E	D	S	T	A	T	E	S	H
Y	A	U	K	R	O	Y	W	E	N	W	H	Z	O	N
G	R	C	T	E	N	I	B	A	C	G	C	N	R	O
N	E	A	I	H	Ⓐ	Ⓛ	Ⓜ	Ⓐ	U	D	O	O	I	I
I	N	D	T	R	E	S	I	L	N	R	L	R	B	T
K	E	N	Y	E	E	R	F	A	S	S	O	B	B	A
N	G	I	V	T	R	M	I	B	T	L	N	T	O	R
A	B	L	A	E	H	C	A	N	A	E	E	N	N	T
R	U	T	N	D	I	A	E	N	R	A	L	A	G	S
E	S	A	B	T	V	D	R	S	A	H	S	G	I	I
K	H	H	I	O	I	I	E	L	E	C	O	A	E	N
A	T	L	T	S	Y	G	S	V	E	I	I	E	R	I
E	O	E	E	M	D	U	R	O	S	M	E	R	O	M
P	S	R	R	A	S	E	C	U	R	I	T	Y	F	D
S	P	A	B	M	S	E	I	R	A	M	E	N	N	A

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Administration, Advisor, African-American, Alma, Annemarie, Army, Badges, Base, Bronze, Bush, Cabinet, Colonel, Foreign, General, Gulf, Harlem, Honors, Linda, Luther, Maud, Michael, Navy, New York, Politician, Presidents, Ranking, Reagan, Ribbon, Saab, Secretary, Security, Serve, Speaker, Star, Statesman, Term, United States, Votes

Yesterday's Answer: Antique

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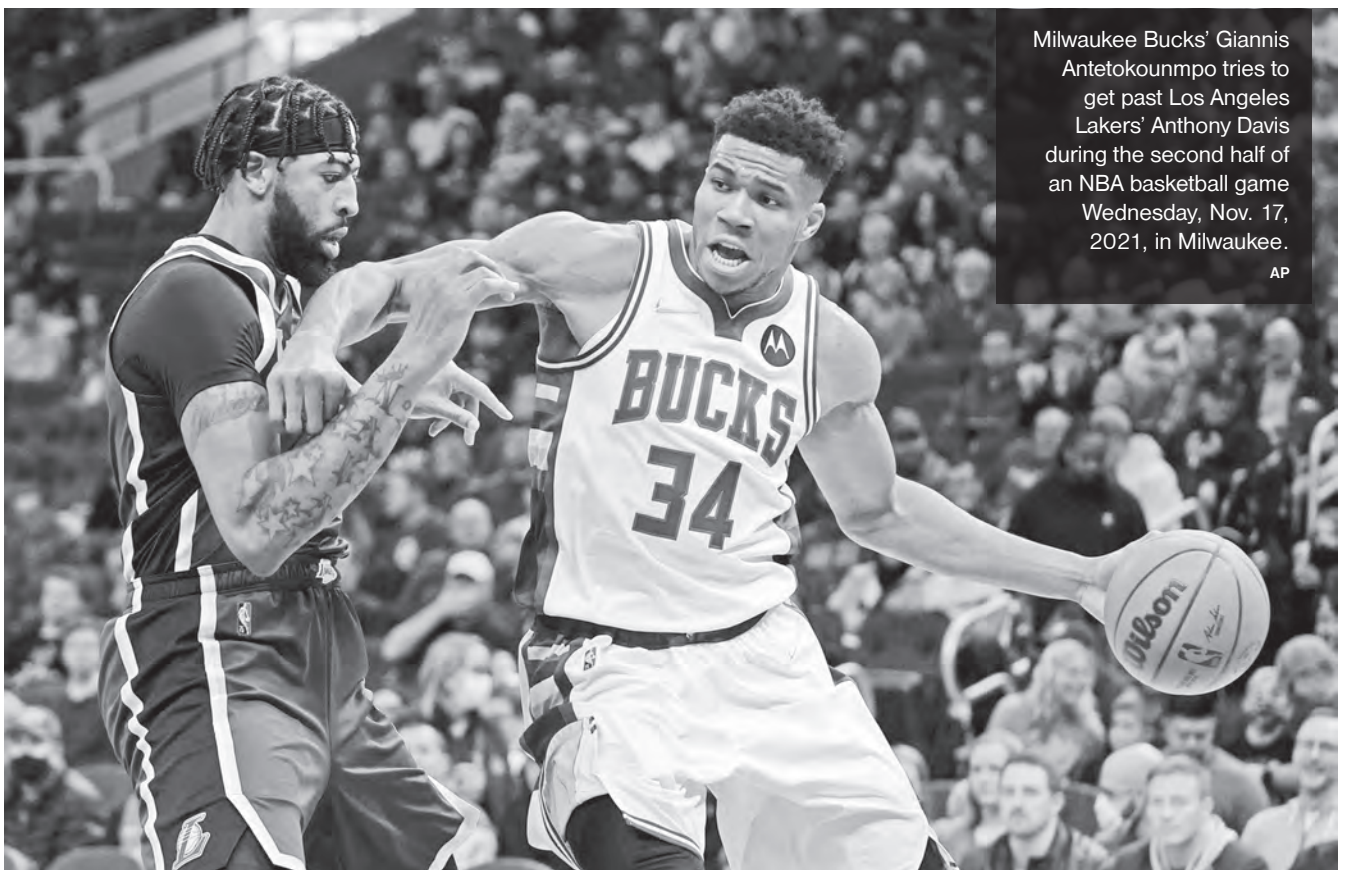
Antetokounmpo, Middleton help Bucks defeat Lakers, 109-102

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 47 points and Khris Middleton tied Milwaukee's franchise record for career 3-pointers as the Bucks beat the Los Angeles Lakers 109-102 on Wednesday night.



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo tries to get past Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021, in Milwaukee. AP

Middleton returned after missing eight games due to COVID-19, played 30 minutes and made consecutive 3-pointers 30 seconds apart early in the fourth quarter to put the Bucks ahead for good. The second of those 3s was his 1,051st with the Bucks to match Ray Allen for first place on the team's all-time list.

"That's a very, very special place to be," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "I think we all just admire what Khris does every night, his ability to shoot, the different ways he gets 3's and his kind of consistency and longevity here."

Allen holds the NBA record with 2,973 3-pointers in a career that also included stints with the Seattle SuperSonics, Boston Celtics and Miami Heat.

LeBron James missed an eighth straight game for the Lakers due to an abdominal strain. The Lakers have gone 3-5 during that stretch.

Los Angeles also is missing Trevor Ariza and Kendrick Nunn, who haven't yet appeared in a game this season.

"It's a part of the game," said Anthony Davis, who scored 18 points for the Lakers. "Same thing with the team we just played. They've been hit with injuries as well. It kind of goes with the league, the business of the game. You go out there and put your body on the line every night, God forbid, something is going to happen in the course of a season. Someone's going to get hurt. We've got to adjust and continue to fight until we get everybody back."

Talen Horton-Tucker scored 25 points for the Lakers two nights after getting a career-high 28 in a 121-103 loss to Chicago. Russell Westbrook had 19 points, Malik Monk 11 and Carmelo Anthony 10.

Antetokounmpo posted his highest point total since scoring 50 in a Game 6 Finals victory over the Phoenix Suns that clinched Milwaukee's first title since 1971.

"I wanted to be the aggressor out there," Antetokounmpo said. "I wanted to initiate the contact, get in the paint, make the right play and just play with an edge out there."

Bobby Portis added 17 points for the Bucks. Middleton and Pat Connaughton had 16 each.

This marked just the third game this season in which the Bucks had their three top players—Antetokounmpo, Middleton and Jrue Holiday—all available. The only other times were in a 127-104 season-opening victory over the Brooklyn Nets and a 121-111 triumph at San Antonio on Oct. 23.

Bucks center Brook Lopez hasn't played since that Nets game due to a back issue and guard Donte DiVincenzo still hasn't made his season debut. DiVincenzo tore a ligament in his left ankle during the first round of the 2020-21 playoffs.

Suns 105, Mavericks 98

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 24 points, Deandre Ayton had 19 points and 13 rebounds and Phoenix beat Dallas for its 10th straight victory.

Chris Paul drove to the basket and was about to fall out of bounds before finding Ayton for the dunk and a 100-96 lead with 1:27 left. Paul had seven assists in the fourth quarter and finished with 14. Booker hit a long 3-pointer with the shot-clock expiring with 50 seconds left to seal it. The Suns scored 37 points in the fourth quarter.

Dallas lost for the second time in the last seven games. The Mavericks were playing their first game this season without star guard Luka Doncic, who suffered sprains to his left knee and ankle in the waning moments of a victory over Denver on Monday.

Tim Hardaway Jr. led Dallas with 22 points, and Kristaps Porzingis had 21.

Nets 109, Cavaliers 99

In New York, James Harden scored 27 points, LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 and Kevin Durant 23 to help Brooklyn beat short-handed Cleveland.

Patty Mills added 21 points to give the Nets four 20-point scorers for the first time this season. Brooklyn improved to 11-5 with its eighth victory in 10 games.

Ricky Rubio led Cleveland with 25 points, Darius Garland added 24 and Kevin Love, Cedi Osman, and Dean Wade each had 11. The Cavaliers dropped to 9-7.

Cleveland played without center Jarrett Allen (illness), guard Collin Sexton (torn left meniscus), and forwards Evan Mobley (sprained right elbow), Lauri Markkanen (conditioning) and Lamar Stevens (sprained right ankle).

Heat 113, Pelicans 98

In Miami, Jimmy Butler had a triple-double in his return from a sprained right ankle, finishing with 31 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in Miami's victory over New Orleans.

With Miami without starters Bam Adebayo (bruised left knee) and Kyle Lowry (rest), Butler shot 10 of 12 from the field and made 10 of 12 free throws after missing the previous three games.

Tyler Herro scored 17 of his 19 points in the second half, and Max Strus added 15 points for the Heat. Herro also hit three 3-pointers, including a mid-court pass intended for Butler that landed inside the rim.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker scored 24 points for the Pelicans. They are 2-14.

Hawks 110, Celtics 99

In Atlanta, John Collins scored 20 points, Cam Reddish and Kevin Huerter had 19 apiece and Atlanta beat Boston for its third straight victory/

Trae Young chipped in with 18 points and 11 assists as the Hawks used a balanced attack to overcome a 34-point performance by Jayson Tatum.

The Celtics missed a chance to climb above .500 for the first time this season.

Hornets 97, Wizards 87

In Charlotte, N.C., Terry Rozier scored 19 points, Miles Bridges added 17 and Charlotte beat Washington for its fourth straight victory.

Kelly Oubre Jr. had 14 points for Charlotte, which ended Washington's five-game winning steak after ended stopped Golden State's run at seven Sunday.

Bradley Beal led Washington with 24 points.

Magic 104, Knicks 98

In New York, Cole Anthony had 15 points and 10 rebounds, Mo Bamba added 12 points and 11 rebounds and Orlando Magic rallied to beat New York.

Terrence Ross scored 19 points off the bench and rookie Jalen Suggs added 13 for the Magic. They snapped a three-game losing streak.

RJ Barrett scored 17 points for New York.

Thunder 101, Rockets 89

In Oklahoma City, Lu Dort scored 34 points to help Oklahoma City beat Houston.

Dort made 14 of 22 shots and had the second-best points total of his career. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 15 points, nine assists and seven rebounds.

Jalen Green scored 21 points for Houston. The Rockets have lost 13 straight. Houston beat Oklahoma City 124-91 about a month ago for its only win of the season.

Timberwolves 107, Kings 97

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored 16 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 in Minnesota's victory over Sacramento.

Patrick Beverley added 14 points, six rebounds and six assists for Minnesota, which lost eight of its previous nine games.

De'Aaron Fox had 28 points for Sacramento.

Trail Blazers 112, Bulls 107

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard struggled at the start but warmed up to finish with 22 points and 10 assists, rallying Portland past Chicago.

Jusuf Nurkic added 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Trail Blazers. They trailed by 20 points in the first half.

Zach LaVine had 30 points for Chicago. DeMar DeRozan added 22.

Pistons 97, Pacers 89

In Detroit, Jeremi Grant scored 19 points, Cory Joseph added 18 and Detroit rallied to beat Indiana.

Cade Cunningham added 16 points for Detroit, and Saddiq Bey had 15. Malcolm Brogdan led Indiana with 19 points.

Staples Center is changing its name to Crypto.com Arena

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Staples Center is getting a new name. Starting Christmas Day, it will be Crypto.com Arena.

The downtown Los Angeles home of the NBA's Lakers and Clippers, the NHL's Kings and the WNBA's Sparks will change its name after 22 years of operation, arena owner AEG announced Tuesday night.

A person with knowledge of the deal tells The Associated Press that Crypto.com is paying $700 million over 20 years to rename the building. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the parties aren't publicly announcing the terms of what's believed to be the richest naming rights deal in sports history.

The 20,000-seat arena has been the Staples Center since it opened in October 1999, with the naming rights owned by the American office-supplies retail company under a 20-year agreement. The name will change when the Lakers host the Brooklyn Nets in the NBA's annual Christmas showcase.

Crypto.com is a cryptocurrency platform and exchange headquartered in Singapore. Founded in 2016, Crypto.com has been on a spending spree across the global sports landscape over the past year. The platform has inked high-visibility sponsorship deals with Formula One, the UFC, Italy's Serie A, Paris St-Germain and the NHL's Montreal Canadiens—while also purchasing the Philadelphia 76ers' uniform sponsorship patch.

AEG, the sports and entertainment conglomerate that has majority ownership of the Kings and had a stake in the Lakers until last summer, built the arena that quickly became a famous setting for major events in the U.S.' second-largest metropolitan area.

Along with its sports tenants, the arena has hosted 19 Grammy Awards ceremonies, three NBA All-Star Games, two NHL All-Star Games and countless high-profile concerts, performances and important public events, including memorials for Michael Jackson, Nipsey Hussle and Kobe Bryant.

The Lakers have won six NBA championships during their tenure in the cavernous arena, including three straight in its first three years of operation. Banners commemorating the Lakers' 17 NBA titles hang high on the walls above the playing floor, providing what might be the most distinctive interior feature of the building.

The Sparks have won three WNBA titles while at the Staples Center, and the Kings won their first two Stanley Cup championships in 2012 and 2014 there, clinching both on home ice.

The Clippers will be short-timers at Crypto.com Arena. They're scheduled to open owner Steve Ballmer's $1 billion, 18,000-seat Intuit Dome in Inglewood in 2024 when their Staples Center lease expires. The Sparks also could leave downtown then, although nothing has been decided.

NFL updates COVID-19 protocols ahead of Thanksgiving

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The NFL is requiring players and staff to wear masks inside team facilities regardless of vaccination status for a week starting on Thanksgiving, and they must be tested twice for COVID-19 after the holiday.

The league's protocols were updated as a result of increasing rates of COVID-19 across the country. Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers and Pittsburgh Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger each missed a game in consecutive weeks because of COVID-19.

There were 34 new confirmed positive tests among players and 47 new confirmed positives among club personnel in the latest testing period from Oct. 31 to Nov. 13. Dr. Allen Sills, the NFL's chief medical officer, said in a conference call Wednesday the league had its highest number of cases last week.

"This upward trend, coupled with the onset of colder weather driving individuals indoors, has resulted in an increased risk of infection among players and staff," the league said in a memo sent to teams Tuesday and obtained by The Associated Press. "Our experts and data confirm that getting vaccinated remains our strongest defense against contracting and transmission of the virus within club facilities."

As of Wednesday, 94.3% of NFL players and nearly 100% of NFL personnel are vaccinated. Overall, 30 of the league's 32 teams have an overall vaccination rate of 95% or higher.

"Because we have a heavily vaccinated population, we are seeing fewer cases than in society, and those who test positive have milder illness," Sills said. "We're not seeing an uncontrolled spread among teams."

Sills also said vaccinated players who contract COVID-19 are testing back in sooner than the 10-day window in a substantial number of cases. Those players are permitted to return after six days of quarantine if they have two negative tests 24 hours apart and no symptoms.

The league is conducting genetic sequencing tests on positive cases to determine exact strains of the virus. Sills said that showed that one club had eight positive cases within a two-week span but each case was unrelated, meaning the individuals were exposed to the virus from someone outside the facility.

"That shows our protocols are working and they're doing what they're designed to do, which is to prevent the virus from spreading in an uncontrolled manner throughout teams," Sills said.

Additional masking will not be required outdoors or in the practice bubble when the mandatory mask policy is in place next week. Testing will take place on Monday Nov. 29 and Wednesday Dec. 1.

Also, the league is encouraging teams to offer drive-through COVID-19 testing for friends and family of players and staff if they're visiting or staying with them for Thanksgiving. The testing should be conducted before friends and family interact with players and staff, and should be arranged at times separate from when players and staff are testing.

Teams were reminded to strictly enforce protocols at their facilities. The NFL is offering to send league staff to assist with the enforcement of the protocols at club facilities. The league did this previously in training camp.

Last week, the NFL fined the Packers $300,000 and issued $14,650 fines to Rodgers and wide receiver Allen Lazard for violations of league and players' union protocols.

Naturally, Falcons vs Patriots brings back memories of 28-3

ATLANTA (AP)—Tom Brady has moved on to win a seventh championship at Tampa Bay.

Only a handful of Atlanta players remain from that fateful night in Houston.

Yet memories of the greatest comeback—and flop—in Super Bowl history still linger, especially when the Falcons are facing the New England Patriots.

The teams meet Thursday night at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, exactly 1,747 days since the Brady-led Patriots rallied from a 28-3 deficit to beat the Falcons 34-28 in overtime at the 51st Super Bowl.

Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan, one of only a handful of players left from the team that couldn't hold a 25-point lead, said he's long since put that miserable evening in the rearview mirror.

"I'm not worried about what happened in the winter of 2017," he said. "You can't go back and win that game."

Brady captured one more championship with the Patriots—at a Super Bowl played in Atlanta, no less—before signing in 2020 with the Buccaneers, who face the Falcons twice a year as a divisional rival. Rubbing a bit more salt in the wound, Brady has won three more games against Atlanta with his new team.

None of that matters to Ryan, who is more concerned about these Falcons (4-5) and how poorly he played in an ugly 43-3 loss to the Dallas Cowboys last Sunday.

Nothing that happens Thursday night will have any impact on that Super Bowl from five seasons ago.

"You have to move on from it and try to do everything we can to get ourselves back to .500," Ryan said. "I really don't think it exorcises any demons or anything like that. That game is over and has been played."

After missing the playoffs last season, the Patriots finally seem to have found their footing in the post-Brady era behind rookie quarterback Mac Jones.

New England (6-4) is one of the league's hottest teams, winning four straight games and five of the past six. The Patriots are coming off their most impressive showing of the season, a 45-7 rout of the Cleveland Browns.

Just 10 games into his career, Jones has already established himself as a leader in the Patriots locker room.

"I think that just happens naturally," he said. "Really good leaders, they're themselves. They don't try to be somebody else. They just do what they are supposed to do, and they do it to the best of their ability."

INVISIBLE RECEIVERS

Coming off the lowest-rated game of his 14-year career, Ryan must find a way to get his wideouts more involved in the offense.

They were basically invisible in the Dallas debacle, combining for just 36 yards on four catches.

Tight end Kyle Pitts is a huge weapon, but the Falcons have major problems at the receiver position after trading Julio Jones and losing his heir apparent, Calvin Ridley, who will miss his fourth straight game while dealing with mental health issues.

Against Dallas, the Falcons trailed 36-3 at halftime. They went on to take their worst loss since 2004.

"We're still 4-5," said Ryan, who was 9 of 21 passing for just 117 yards with two interceptions. "I've been in worst situations, for sure. Obviously, it was an ugly game, but it was just one."

RUN STOPPERS

The Patriots have held two straight opponents under 100 yards rushing, and they'll be looking to extend that streak against an Atlanta team that has struggled to run the ball.

The Falcons are averaging 82.9 yards per game on the ground, 29th in the NFL.

Compounding their problems, top running back Cordarrelle Patterson—who won a Super Bowl with the Patriots in 2018—could miss the game because of an ankle injury.

"They're missing some good players," New England linebacker Dont'a Hightower said, "but they have some guys on their roster that I'm sure are ready to step up."

HAPPY TO BE BACK

Patriots right tackle Trent Brown's return last weekend was bittersweet.

Not only was it his first game back from a calf injury in the season opener that put him on injured reserve, it was against a Cleveland team he was about to face last November when he "almost died."

Playing for the Raiders, Brown was going through his normal pregame routine, including getting some extra fluid via an IV. That's when air was accidentally injected into his bloodstream, nearly sending him into cardiac arrest.

He spent three days in the hospital, took about eight months to fully recover, and even contemplated retirement.

"It was scary," Brown said. "I definitely thought about my kids."

Now that he's back from the calf injury, the Patriots are nearly at full strength on the offensive line for the first time since their opener.

ONE MORE THING ABOUT THAT GAME

The Patriots have only 12 players on their roster who were part of their historic Super Bowl win over the Falcons.

Linebacker Matt Judon wasn't one of them, having just finished his rookie season in Baltimore. But he said he remembers watching from afar.

"That screenshot (showing Atlanta ahead 28-3) and then Brady's head down. And they came back and won," Judon said. "That's what this team is about—it's resilient. Never dying. Never say never. It ain't over until it is."

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Woo, Ryu top seeds in men's doubles 5.0

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Boys 18-and-under singles opponents Jimin Woo and Sam Ryu have teamed up and are the top seeds in the men's doubles 5.0 of the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic.

Woo and Ryu headline the start of the 18-and-over portion of the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic this weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Colin Ramsey and Moris Villanueva are expected to crowd Woo and Ryu for the championship of the men's doubles 5.0 as they're ranked No. 2.

In the men's singles 5.0, Woo has pole position as the top seed with Sean Lee seeded second. Other players in the division are Jun Wang, Luther Lizama, and Colin Ramsey.

Boys 16-and-under champion Hye Jin Elliot and runner-up Serin Chung will duke it out in the women's singles 5.0 as they're the only entries in the category.

In the men's singles 4.0, the top seed is Wataru Kadokura with Nason Wessel seeded second.

Jimin Woo, sitting, and Sam Ryu during a break in their boys 18-and-under championship in the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

MARK RABAGO

There's a three-player pool in the women's singles 4.0 with Hoo Wang, Irin Chung, and Savita Sikkel contesting the championship.

Irin Chung and Wataru Kadokura headline the teams in the mixed doubles 4.0 with Marivic Dunlop and George Poquiz ranked second.

Other division at stake in this weekend's 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic are the men's doubles 4.0, women's doubles 4.0, men's doubles 50-and-over, men's doubles 40-and-over, men's singles 50-and-over, men's singles 60-and-over, men's doubles 60-and-over, mixed doubles 50-and-over, mixed doubles 3.0, men's doubles 2.0, women's doubles 2.0, men's singles 3.0, and women's singles 3.0.

For more information on the TanHoldings Tennis Classic, call 670-235-0561 ext. 117 and to see the tournament's draws, click on https://www.tournamentsoftware.com/user/login?ReturnUrl=%2findividual-entry%2f9003BA82-262D-4696-A0CC-21583C13EC9A.

MORE

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"We hope to have our national team all set by the second week of January. We should have our final 20-man roster at that time," said Flores.

As far as players from Tinian and Rota wanting to try out are concerned, Flores and company already flew to Tinian last Saturday to conduct tryouts in the neighboring island. Rota is up next this weekend if plans don't miscarry.

"We also want to accommodate our neighboring brothers on Tinian and see if there are any potential players that we can invite down to our training here on Saipan. Keep in mind that if you're identified you will have to pay for your trip to Saipan and also accommodations while training here Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday."

Flores added that like players trying out from Saipan, players from Tinian and Rota will have to earn a spot on the team.

"Nobody's guaranteed a slot but they're guaranteed a slot to try out," he said.

The national team coach said coming into Week 2 of the tryouts there are still some familiar names who have not showed up for tryouts yet.

"There's some missing players that are not coming out. These are potential national players. Why they're not here I'm not sure. It might be work schedule or family matters. It's not too late at least before the week ends come out this Saturday or maybe the last time to tryout is Monday," said Flores.

With all the challenges besetting baseball the past several years, Flores assured everyone that they will exert all effort to represent the CNMI the best they can in next year's Mini Games.

"Our goal as ambassadors of the CNMI is to carry that flag and to win here at home. Win that gold medal in front our crowd and our home fans. I'd like to ask the central government, the leadership, as well as the House of Representatives and the Senate to please prioritize and look at our national sport. We don't have a field now but I'm confident that if everyone put their minds together we can have a ground-breaking and get this field ready for the Pacific Mini Games and our [Saipan Baseball League] season as well," he said.

Strength and conditioning coach Joey Tudela, for his part, said a week and a half into non-baseball training and he already likes what he sees from the players.

"They're doing good and they've started to get moving again. It's what you can expect from guys coming off 2-3 years with no season. We're not trying to build cross-fit athletes or weightlifters here. We're just making them able to get moving so they can play baseball," he said.

Tudela said he's been trying to vary the strength and conditioning training, mixing up fast and short sprint-type runs with 200m and 400m long distance runs to build stamina. Also in the exercise docket are some calisthenics and body weight movement activities.

"We have 50-60 players every tryout so we can't really workout in the gym because of lack of equipment and [social distancing] protocols," he said.

On players' attendance, Tudela said everyone has been showing great commitment to become part of the national team.

"We're happy with everyone's attendance and everyone's showing effort and showing up for training every other day. They're all training as hard as they can with what is presented in front of them," he said.

NMI

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and have a chance to make it to the national team.

"We are inviting badminton players who meet the eligibility requirements to come forward and showcase their skills for an opportunity and honor to represent the NMI and play in front of the home crowd," NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said.

Next year's Pacific Mini Games will take place on Saipan from June 17 to 25 with badminton among the nine sports in the program. The NMBA is allowed to have a maximum of six players each in the men's and women's divisions. Athletics, baseball, beach volleyball, golf, triathlon, tennis, weightlifting, and *va'a* are the other sports in the Mini Games program.

Rota, Tinian, and off-island athletes are welcome

To provide Rota, Tinian, and off-island players opportunities to play for the NMI in the 2022 competition, the NMBA has designed a process that will allow them to compete for slots on the national team.

Players must submit a letter of intent to join the tryouts on or before Dec. 4, 2021 and once the NMBA national team committee has compiled the list, it will schedule the trial dates for Rota and Tinian. For off-island players (U.S.-based or anywhere else), aside from meeting the residency rules, they must also provide proof of their active involvement in badminton, such as results of latest tournaments, affiliation with clubs/teams, and regular playing schedule, to be considered for the selection.

More information about the tryout process will be released once inquiries from Rota, Tinian, and off-island players are received. Send the letter of interest to janellepangilinan8@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Tudela wins SGA October Ace

Alex Tudela won the Saipan Golfers Association Ace of the Month Tournament for October held last Oct. 17 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Tudela bested a 15-man field after shooting a net 72 built around a gross of 81. The nine-handicapper fired a 39 in the front nine and a 42 in the back nine.

A stroke back was Nick Sablan who shot a 73 net, while Ed Sablan completed the Top 3 with a post-handicap score of 74.

Tudela now joins SGA's 2021 Ace of the Year qualifiers Das Krishnan (January), Joe I. Sablan (February), Frances M. Sablan (March), Rick Kautz (April), Tony Benavente (May), Ed Manibusan (June), Nick Sablan (July), Jung Eun Teack (August), and Larry Deleon Guerrero (September) for the club's yearend tournament.

In the closest to the pin competition, Rick Kautz took the win in hole No. 6, while Frances Sablan was without peer in hole No. 8. Rene Batalones was *numero uno* in hole No. 12, while Nick Sablan was unbeatable in hole No. 15. Longest drive belonged to Tony T. Benavente who won both the 2nd and 10th holes.

SGA's Ace of the Month Tournament for November and Turkey Shoot will be held at Kingfisher Golf Links this Sunday, Nov. 21. Tee time is at 9am with show time at 8:30am. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	11	5	.688	—
New York	8	7	.533	2½
Philadelphia	8	7	.533	2½
Toronto	7	8	.467	3½
Boston	7	8	.467	3½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	10	4	.714	—
Miami	10	5	.667	½
Charlotte	9	7	.563	2
Atlanta	7	9	.438	4
Orlando	4	11	.267	6½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	10	5	.667	—
Cleveland	9	7	.563	1½
Milwaukee	7	8	.467	3
Indiana	6	10	.375	4½
Detroit	4	10	.286	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	9	5	.643	—
Memphis	7	7	.500	2
San Antonio	4	10	.286	5
New Orleans	2	14	.125	8
Houston	1	14	.067	8½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	9	5	.643	—
Denver	9	5	.643	—
Portland	8	8	.500	2
Oklahoma City	6	8	.429	3
Minnesota	5	9	.357	4

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	12	2	.857	—
Phoenix	11	3	.786	1
L.A. Clippers	9	5	.643	3
L.A. Lakers	8	8	.500	5
Sacramento	6	9	.400	6½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PICKLEBALL

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because while it's an incredibly easy sport to pick up, it's a hard sport to master.

"Without a large investment we can get these people work in their hand-and-eye coordination. Get them moving more and get them involved in a sport that can be right here in their parking lot and they don't have to travel anywhere," he said.

Krum, who co-founded what originally was Paradise Pickleball Club of Saipan with his wife, Donna, in August 2020, said future plans include acquiring specialized wheelchairs for pickleball.

"Eventually, we will also include the wheelchair community because there are special pickleball games that involve specialized wheelchairs that right now are $2,500 each so they're a little out of reach. The big thing right now is get this out for the disabled community and then work on acquiring these special wheelchairs," he said.

CLI executive director Susan Satur said the PFNMI donation is like a breath of fresh air for the agency and their consumers.

"The Krums—Nelson and Donna—lined the court and they donated the equipment needed…next week they'll teach our consumer how to play pickleball. It's a wonderful thing because it will get our consumers outside and playing activities again," she said.

Satur said that because of the recent local spread of COVID-19, they haven't welcomed all their consumers back and since the onset of the pandemic, not all of them were able to play sports they usually took part on to follow COVID-19 protocols.

She said before COVID-19, CLI consumers were able to play basketball, volleyball, softball, and boca.

"Only half could come [because of COVID-19 protocols]. With pickleball it doesn't matter. It's non-contact and less people play," she said.

Satur said everyone's already excited to learn about pickleball. If plans don't go sideways, CLI will be welcoming back its consumers on Monday, Nov. 22.

In a little over a year of existence, PFNMI has grown from five regular players to 20. It also now has three courts at the Church of Latter-day Saints along Middle Road and four courts on Capitol Hill.

With over 3 million players, pickleball is arguably the fastest growing sport in the U.S. and its popularity has spread all over the world as pickleball—with the recent recognition of the CNMI—is currently played in 67 countries.

Kang, Feng top Mini Games golf fundraiser

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations held its first of many fundraisers last Nov. 6 with the pairs of Jin Feng and Sun Ho Kang and Dave Jones and Sixtus Aquino topping the two-man scramble #Team NMI Golf Fundraising Tournament at the Coral Ocean Resort.

Feng and Kang won the low gross division with a combined score of 62 built around a 31-31 in the front and back nines. Brian Camacho and Fred Cataluna came in second with their 63 (32-31), while Dung Tenorio and Tony Satur completed the Top 3 with their 66 (33-33).

Jones and Aquino topped the black jack double Peoria division with a score of 70. The 6-handicap team shot a 39-37 in the first nine and final nines holes for a gross of 75.

Coming in second in the division were Paul Kaipat and Franco Santos who finished with a combined score of 70.20 built around a gross of 69. The duo had a handicap of -1.20 and came away with a 35-35 in both halves of the course.

Scott Schuler and Joji Taguchi completed the Top 3 with their 70.40. They had a gross of 68 following twin 34s but were weighed down by the -2.40 handicap.

In closest to the pin, Jose Tudela topped hole No. 3 (8'6'), while Kang was without peer in hole No. 7 (2'9"). Joshua Atalig took the win in hole No. 12 (8'3") with Tim Goodwin taking the plum in hole No. 1 (12'2").

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second from left, took part in the #Team NMI Golf Fundraising Tournament held last Nov. 6 at the Coral Ocean Resort. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the accurate drive, Mel Sablan topped the male division (6") with Jean Me Ae winning the women's class (6'2").

The #Team NMI Golf Fundraising Tournament was sponsored by Roil Soil Clothing, Signsational, Klautz Glass, Cool Market, Herman's Bakery, TSL Foundation, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., Refaluwasch Golf Association, Bridge Capital, LLC, PacificEco, Marianas Golf Association, and Five Star Builders.

CFoGA also would like to thank the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for their partnership in organizing and coordinating the #Team NMI Golf Fundraising Tournament.

Run Saipan 21.20 Virtual 5K starts today

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Run Saipan will again return to virtual competition for its 5-kilometer race this month with the 21.20 Virtual 5K set from 8am today, Nov. 19, to 8am Monday, Nov. 22.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said unfortunately due to the rise of COVID-19 cases on island, Run Saipan had no choice but to go back to doing this month's fun run via a virtual race again.

"The fortunate part of this is that people anywhere can take part in this race. They can run anywhere and anytime between this Friday 8am to Monday 8am Chamorro Standard Time. Screenshot their results from the platform of their choosing to track their run and email us," he said.

For the runners living on Saipan looking for a challenge, Dela Cruz said they have a chance to set a course record along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway.

"We have a designated Run Saipan 5K route for people that want to set a record for it. The 0.25 marker on the pathway near the bus stop at Oleai Beach Bar & Grill will be the starting. Runners just need to run north until their GPS signals them to turn around at their 2.5K mark and complete their run. We will recognize the course record with overall and age group divisions," he said.

The time to beat is last month's 5K virtual run of 20:40 by Tania Tan. The junior at Fordham University ran that pace during the cross country meet at Cedarville, Ohio.

"It's open season for course records! Who wants to be the top runner on the Beach Road Pathway course? If you can beat 20:40 even better. Good luck to this weekend's runners!" said the Run Saipan president.

Runners who complete the 5K virtual run must screen shot their results from any device or platform and email runsaipan@gmail.com. For more information, contact (670) 287-0891 or email runsaipan@gmail.com.

To register, go to the link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSee7sAfdKzhTQ9auAQbB27qsXN1SaCbYiwI6EVx5GCKqIU8lQ/viewform?fbclid=IwAR3-.qVi6trCoHCT6Iz5T5UiB-C0VWsV9ltolQljWyMsGcl-H7ln_XmO-tcVwY.

Fordham University junior Tania Tan's 20.40 is the time to beat in this month's 21.20 Virtual 5K of Run Saipan. MARK RABAGO

Fil-Taga Turkey Shoot tomorrow

Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its 2021 Turkey Shootout tomorrow, Nov. 20, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Tee-off time is at 12pm with the first place winner assured $100 cash prize plus a turkey/ham package. Second place gets $50 and third place takes home $30.

Aside from the $65 turkey/ham package going to the champion of the 2021 Turkey Shootout, Fil-Taga will also be giving away turkey/ham packages to fourth place, seventh place, 10th place, second to the last place, and most accurate drive in hole No. 10. There will also be a $1,000 hole-in-one prize during the 2021 Turkey Shootout. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Nolan lost to no one in Battle of Champions

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Nolan Cultura went unscathed in winning the Battle of Champions held last Nov. 7 at the New Bamboo Bar in Saipan Las Vegas Resort along Middle Road.

The 50-year-old services agent at National Alamo Enterprise needed only to win one game in the finals to hoist the monthly championship and he did just that by beating veteran Jerry Soriano to take home the $500 first place purse.

It wasn't an easy victory by any stretch of the imagination though, as Soriano almost cleaned the rack after pocketing his first striped ball before misfiring on the 8-ball. Seeing the opening he needed, Cultura capitalized and wiped out his solid balls before pocketing the 8-ball to avert a second game and win the monthly championship.

Cultura said it was plain and simple luck that made him win that particular Sunday, but it's not often that you go undefeated en route to the championship.

The Surigao City, Surigao del Norte, Philippines native started the evening with a win over Ed Mariano. He then followed that up by triumphing over Juancho Mendoza before advancing to the semifinals with a victory over Randy David.

Cultura, who started playing billiards in 2011, then defeated Jess Fariñas to book the first finals ticket and the all-important twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round.

Soriano had a more winding road to reach the finals. After winning his opening round match against Rowell "Cobra" Mariano, the 50-year-old native of Mexico, Pampanga in the Philippines then lost to Fariñas and was relegated to the losers' bracket.

There, he made hay while the sun shined winning against Roel Baretto, Rey Hermongenes, David, and Jesse Guerrero in quick succession to forge a finals matchup with the undefeated Cultura. That's where Lady Luck continued to smile on Cultura as he put a stop to Soriano's four straight wins by beating him while playing with the solid balls despite sinking nothing on the break.

Soriano settled for the $250 runner-up purse, while Fariñas and Guerra went home with $100 and $50 for finishing in the Top 4.

A total of 16 pool masters took part in the monthly 8-ball tournament at the New Bamboo Bar. The tournament, sponsored by New Bamboo Bar, Saipan Vegas, and Budweiser, gathers the champions of the past weekly competitions and is held every month. For more information, call Soriano at 588-1971.

Nolan Cultura, standing second from left, won the Battle of Champions held last Nov. 7 at the New Bamboo Bar in Saipan Las Vegas Resort along Middle Road. MARK RABAGO

Antetokounmpo, Middleton help Bucks defeat Lakers, 109-102 PAGE 20

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Nearly 60 players have been attending tryouts for the CNMI National Baseball Team for next year's Pacific Mini Games at the Oleai Sports Complex. DAVID ATTAO

More showing up for baseball tryouts

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

From just 30 players, the tryouts for the CNMI National Baseball Team for next year's Pacific Mini Games have nearly doubled with close to 60 now training thrice a week at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Team manager Manny Sablan and coaches Derron Sablan and Gary Cruz brief players about the tryout process at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field. DAVID ATTAO

"As you can see from Day 1 it's doubled up on the number of participants showing interest to come out and try out for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games. We're gonna continue this week Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and Saturday we're going to start the first of on-the-field training with fundamentals of fielding, our situational plays, our soft-tossing drills, our outfield drills, and our pitching," said national team coach Derron Flores.

Aside from Flores, also coaching the national team is Gary Cruz and both will be under the purview of national team manager Manny Sablan. The coaching staff of the team will have some tough choices to make in the coming weeks, according to Flores.

"There's so much talent here. It's gonna be a tough decision to trim the field to the final 20 but will do our best to select the elite 20 to represent us in the upcoming Pacific Mini Games next June," he said.

The plan is for baseball-related training to commence this Saturday and this will go on for at least two weeks—three at the maximum—before Sablan, Flores, and Cruz begin the unenviable task of making the cut for the national team.

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Pickleball group donates to Center for Living Independently

By MARK RABAGO
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The rechristened Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands last week donated pickleball equipment to the CNMI Center for Independent Living as part of its community outreach to introduce the sport to local people with mental and physical disabilities.

PFNMI president Nelson Krum said they donated a portable pickleball net, six pickleball paddles, and a dozen balls "so they can start playing right away."

Aside from the equipment, the fledgling group also striped CLI's parking lot to enable CLI's consumers to play the sport right in the office's premises.

Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands president Nelson Krum, second from right, turns over pickleball equipment to staff of the CNMI Center for Independent Living on Capitol Hill. MARK RABAGO

"We wanted to extend our outreach to include pickleball to the disabled community. The first efforts toward that was striping the parking lot at the CLI," said Krum.

He said unlike other sports, pickleball is unique

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NMI Badminton Team tryouts set

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association will hold tryouts for the NMI National Badminton Team that will compete in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

The series of tryouts will kick off on Nov. 29 at the TSL Sports Complex for Saipan players, starting at 6pm. As per the eligibility rules set by the Pacific Games Council, which sanctions both the Mini Games and Pacific Games, only athletes that are U.S. passport holders and have resided in the NMI for at least five years (whether consecutive or cumulative) are qualified to join the tryouts

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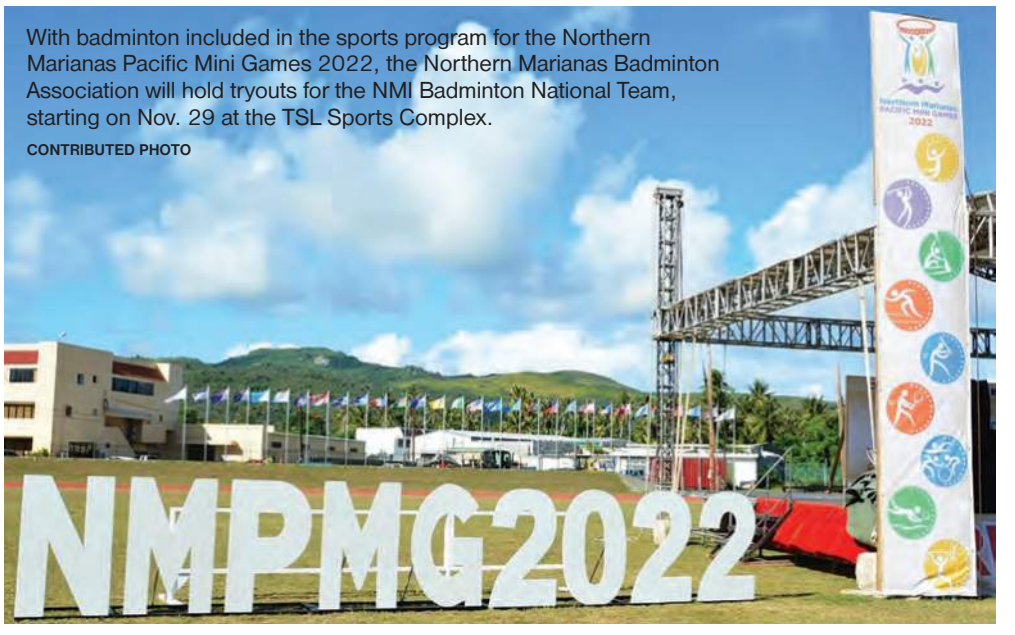

With badminton included in the sports program for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, the Northern Marianas Badminton Association will hold tryouts for the NMI Badminton National Team, starting on Nov. 29 at the TSL Sports Complex.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO